



Vol. 43. No 1

The Maryland Yellowthroat

February 2023



Photo by Marisa Rositol

Prince George's County's First Black-throated Gray Warbler was one of many Maryland birding highlights in 2022. Tyler Bell reminds us of what transpired, beginning on page 7.

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The Maryland Yellowthroat
Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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Editor's Note

Two years ago, David Fleischmann volunteered to sum up 2020's Maryland birding highlights for the Yellowthroat, and he did a terrific job rounding up the year's scattered reports and supporting photos. Unable to continue this heroic effort for 2022, he suggested we pester Tyler Bell to assume the task. Happily, Tyler agreed to take one for the team, so you can now review, beginning on page 7, the exciting Maryland birding events of the past year. You can also learn in Chapter Chatter about some fabulous adventures that MOS members have recently enjoyed, spanning the globe from North Carolina, California, and Hawaii to Panama, Madagascar, Antarctica, and New Guinea. MOS members do seem to get around. You never know where we'll pop up next.

On the home front, Marcia Watson and Jeremy Castle keep us up to date with the latest MOS sanctuary news and contribute the next profile in their Yellowthroat sanctuary series. This time, they describe the Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run in Garrett County, which also includes a nice account of MOS legend Chan Robbins. He and his wife, Eleanor, purchased the property to preserve it, and, upon their passing, their four children donated it to MOS. Also in this issue, we get updates about several MOS programs: the MOS Volunteer Recognition Program, the MOS Youth Program, and the scholarship fund that enables deserving environmental educators in the state to attend classes at the famous Audubon nature camp at Hog Island, Maine. It is inspiring to read the reports of this year's fortunate winners, and we hope you can get a sense of their enthusiasm in the excerpts on page 6. Meg Harris reminds us about the upcoming MOS convention in May, and we also list some volunteer opportunities to help with, among other initiatives, the convention and the youth program. Talk about taking one for the team - where would the MOS youth program be without the commitment and energy of George Ratcliffe and Wayne Bell?

Finally, Chris Eberly sums up the latest efforts of the Maryland Bird Conservation Program. This will be his last posting in his capacity as the program's executive director, as he is moving on to the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. Congratulations, Chris, and many thanks for all you have done to make the MBCP so successful.

President's Corner

GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS OF MOS!

The New Year is now well launched - wishing you Good Health and Good Birding throughout 2023!

The 15 chapters of MOS are the heart and soul of our organization; they create a warm and welcoming environment where people enjoy camaraderie and share their excitement of the natural world. This is the common thread that links all members within and across our chapters. The dedication and enthusiasm of individuals within chapters is what creates the foundation for MOS as a state-wide organization.

One of my goals in the next 3 months is to attend a meeting or gathering of all chapters within MOS! I'd like for members to be able to put a face to my name, and talking with members from each chapter is important to me! I have attended a number of meetings already, and have been giving a 3 minute spiel about MOS: encouraging members to learn more about the breeding bird atlas, our stewardship of our sanctuaries, the upcoming convention in May, our stellar youth group YMOS, and our excellent speakers list for chapter use.

I attended virtually at Harford, Patuxent, and Montgomery chapters. I like to sign in early for pre-meeting chatter and to meet folks! Harford was on a leisurely, chatty Friday night, where I was warmly greeted, and where speaker Gary Van Velsir presented a delightful birding excursion to sites in Europe, with many tucked away gardens. Patuxent chapter meets with Prince George's Audubon Society; "the more the merrier" applies here - I have never heard a livelier, more focused discussion than after David Moulton's great presentation on Maryland's declining grassland birds. The Montgomery chapter was very well attended and very interactive and we were updated on the BBA3 by an excellent talk from Gabriel Foley, BBA3 Project Coordinator.

I attended in-person at Frederick, Carroll and Baltimore chapters. Frederick is my home chapter, and talking there was bittersweet - I was stepping down after three years as President and handing over the reins to new president Mike Spurrier. It was a delight to speak at Carroll chapter and congratulate them; president Michelle Hudgins and others had determinedly stepped up to re-establish their chapter. I hit the trifecta at Baltimore: it was their annual delicious potluck dinner, and it was held at Cylburn Arboretum, stark, yet still lovely this time of year. Best of all, the speaker was Dave Curson, Audubon Maryland-DC, who will be speaking at our convention! His fascinating topic is on the creation of man-made floating islands to create nesting sites for colonial nesting seabirds. What an excellent sneak peak for his convention presentation!

In February, I will go to Howard, Anne Arundel and

Tri-County chapters; and in March, Washington and Talbot. Gatherings with the other four, Allegany/Garrett, Caroline, Cecil, and Kent, are pending!

Thank you to all the chapters that have hosted me, and I am looking forward to the next round!

Bonnie Borsa

President

Maryland Ornithological Society

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

YMOS VOLUNTEER: We still could use help for George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell in running YMOS! They work so hard to run an excellent program for our youth! George and Wayne are from the east side of the state; so somebody from middle or western Maryland would be particularly helpful!

GRANT WRITER: Do you have experience writing grants? Obtaining grant money to help fund expensive projects - such as the finished products for the BBA3 - would be a great help to our society. MOS needs to take a more professional approach to development; i.e., seeking significant donations and grants to help support our activities.

CONVENTION FIELD TRIP LEADER: We are very busy making plans for the convention and can use a few more trip leaders! Are you knowledgeable about Western Maryland birding sites and trails? Your expertise is needed!

INSURANCE ADVISOR: We need someone well-versed in insurance to give advice!

Our newsletter, The Yellowthroat, always appreciates contributions from MOS members!

Yellowthroat editor Dave Wood has created a section called "The Members' Perch". This is a chance for members to "sound off"!! Members can contribute opinions about birding or send in brief accounts of one of their most exciting, memorable, or embarrassing birding moments! People can submit book reviews, site descriptions, detailed trip reports, conservation alerts, etc. As Editor Dave says, "We have a lot of collective experience, perspectives, and wisdom in our membership, and we all benefit when our members share in the Yellowthroat". To submit material, send to yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

MBCP Update – Yellowthroat February 2023

Changes at Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

After more than five years as Executive Director of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP), Chris Eberly has stepped down to take a new position. As of February 7, Chris is Director of Programs at Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, which is a partner organization of MBCP. The programs at MBCP are in excellent shape to continue and thrive until a new director is found.

Bird City Maryland Coordinator Pamela Kellett has taken the program to exciting new levels, including the launching of the first-of-its-kind Bird Campus program. With the coming of the Bird City Network, Bird City MD will become integrated with other state Bird City programs. Bird City Network is a unifying program powered by American Bird Conservancy and Environment for the Americas. Several cities and campuses are in the process of completing applications.

The **Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring** Program has taken on a new volunteer coordinator, Christi Barnes. Christi will interface with our volunteer nest monitors and provide updates on nesting season milestones, respond to inquiries, and coordinate with Bald Eagle data manager Lisa Flynn. Christi will greatly improve communication with our volunteers.

The **Farmland Raptor** Program welcomes intern Alex Pellegrini for the 2023 season. Andy Brown, now retired from Calvert County Natural Resources Division, will supervise Alex during his internship. Andy is the state-wide Barn Owl coordinator for Farmland Raptors. Alex will focus much of his attention on getting nest box data entered into NestStory and helping Barn Owl and kestrel nest box monitors trained on using NestStory so we can gather a more complete picture of the status of these two Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

The partnership between MBCP and MOS is crucial to ensuring stable populations of Maryland's avifauna. I hope the Board and membership of MOS continue to value and support bird conservation and MBCP. In partnership we can secure the future of Maryland's birds!

Thanks for your ongoing support.

Bird City Maryland – Pamela Kellett,
coordinator@marylandbirds.org

Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring –
Christi Barnes,
eagles@marylandbirds.org

Farmland Raptors – Andy Brown,
farmlandraptors@marylandbirds.org

Chris Eberly
Outgoing Executive Director

Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership



MAY 2023 MOS CONVENTION

Don't Forget!

It is our 75th MOS Convention! Come enjoy the camaraderie of bird-lovers, join field trips to find spring migrants, and listen to excellent presentations!

A new feature this year in honor of our 75th anniversary is a forward-looking panel discussion on Saturday evening: "Launching MOS into the Next 75 Years".

This year's convention will be held May 19th - 21st in lovely western Maryland, at the Wisp Resort in Garrett County. The convention website, mosconvention.org, has all convention details and updates.

The convention committee has lined up great field trips with experienced leaders to explore the many birding sites of the area: Finzel Swamp, Swallow Falls State Park, Piney Run Mountain, Cranesville Swamp, Broadford Lake....the list goes on and on! We have terrific speakers this year! Katie Fallon, director of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, and author of several books, will give our Friday keynote address on Cerulean Warblers and their challenges. Our first Saturday seminar will be Cody Kent, professor at Frostburg State University, who will discuss wintering wood warblers. Our second Saturday seminar will be Dave Curson, Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon Mid-Atlantic, who will discuss the creation of man-made floating islands to create nesting sites for colonial nesting seabirds.

We will have a poster session, a raffle for birding items, vendor tables to browse, a photo contest, and a wine and cheese social on both Friday and Saturday nights!

Plan on attending and be a part of the 75th MOS Convention celebration!

Dates to note:

Registration opens February 15th and closes May 4th. Field trip sign-ups open March 13th and close May 16th. Photo contest opens April 1st and closes May 16th.

The Pin Design Contest is accepting entries until March 1, 2023.

For more information on submissions:

[https://mdbirds.org/join/annual-convention/
convention-pin-contest](https://mdbirds.org/join/annual-convention/convention-pin-contest)

Notice from the Breeding Bird Atlas:

Gabriel Foley and the rest of the Breeding Bird Atlas Final Product Committee are hard at work discussing what goals we want the final BBA3 data to achieve. If anyone has any comments or concerns with either digital or print products, please contact Gabriel at mdccbba3@mdbirds.org

MOS Volunteer Recognition Program Update

The Awards Program of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) was created to recognize and acknowledge the importance of its volunteers and their time, hard work, and dedication to the Society. It is because of its volunteers that the M.O.S is a viable and active organization.

Most of the awards we prepare are paper certificates and are presented in a blue folder with the M.O.S. logo embossed on the cover.

The MOS has three primary award certificates:

1. The Valued Service Award: This is our formal certificate. It's usually given for outstanding sustained performance in some role or capacity. It has an embossed MOS gold seal in the lower middle center of the certificate and is accompanied with a "Valued Service Award" lapel pin.
2. The Attagirl/Attaboy Award: A light-hearted certificate. Usually it is awarded for performance over a short period of time, and given to recognize hard work, perhaps at a new job, or for a specific task well done. It is usually (but not always) presented in an acrylic "sign holder."
3. The Blood, Sweat and Tears Award: It's a comical certificate. It is torn, stained, and wrinkled to symbolize someone who rolled-up their sleeves to tackle a hard, gritty, unglamorous job. It is usually (but not always) presented rolled-up in an MOS coffee mug and tied with a strip of frayed bandana.

We also prepare other types of awards such as Certificate of Appreciation, Conservationist of the Year, Distinguished Service Award, Friend of the Society, Bird of the Year, Rookie (birder) of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and so forth. There is no charge to the Chapters for these awards. However, if the award involves MOS mugs, plaques, acrylic "sign holders," picture frames, and so forth, there is a charge to cover the cost of those items.

The M.O.S. also recognizes non-members (individuals and organizations) who have served the Society, hosted a bird, or contributed significantly to causes important to the M.O.S.

We're happy to work with you to create an award that meets your needs. The requests for awards may come from the State organization and its Chapters. However, all awards need to be approved by the President or President-elect of the State organization or Chapter.

For additional information or questions, please contact Joy Aso at smudgie@comcast.net.

- Joy Aso

YMOS NEWS, FEB. 2023

YMOS Continues to Grow

YMOS seems to be adding more students than graduates each year. We have had 54 students join us on a trip since August. The group has continued its monthly zoom meetings, often with a presentation by a former student. In January, Patrick Newcombe, now at Princeton, presented his research on the impacts of elephants on bird breeding with a focus on how to go about research. In December, the group held its annual Photo Big Day, raising funds for the Maryland Bird Conservation MARC student research fund; their 118 species photographed raised well over \$1,000. Our thanks go out to all who pledged and donated.

Announcing the Annual YMOS Birdathon

March 18-19, 2023

The young birders in the Youth Program of the Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS) will once again explore the shorelines, marshes, woods and fields of Maryland's Eastern Shore in quest of at least 100 bird species. The quest is anything but a "gimme" in mid-March on Delmarva, but you can be sure they will be up to the challenges posed by early waterfowl departures, very early spring migrants, and, oh yes, the weather (there are no rain dates!).

The annual YMOS Birdathon is the principal fundraiser to underwrite expenses for representing the MOS in the World Series of Birding (WSB), the world's foremost birding competition organized by New Jersey Audubon, in May. The youth invite your pledges of \$0.25, \$0.50, or \$1.00 per species seen over their two days in the field as they travel as a group from Assateague to Kent Island.

In addition to the challenges posed by the weather and the birds themselves, the youngsters construct an advance list of 100 "Must-See" species. Their final results require that they see two additional species to make up for any Must-See miss. Further, 90% of the participants must see or hear each species identified. Overcoming all these challenges requires planning and decision-making coupled with a high level of collaboration and sharing, which is a YMOS hallmark. And, lest we forget, it is still great fun!

The 2023 WSB cadre is turning out to be our largest one ever, with at least 24 participating students. YMOS will field an all-state high school team, a carbon-free team, two middle school teams, and two elementary teams. The students will scout areas of New Jersey in the week prior to the May 13 Big Day.

You can pledge any time prior to the Birdathon by emailing George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com) or Wayne Bell (wbell2@washcoll.edu). Those who pledge will receive an advance copy of the Must-See list. After the Birdathon, you will receive a report of all species identified, and the amount you owe based on the net species total after any penalty deductions for Must-See misses.

Thank you in advance for your encouragement of this remarkable group of youngsters and, of course, the parents and coaches who rise early and drive long hours to make it all happen.

--George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell

Some Excerpts from 2022 recipients of MOS scholarships to attend environmental education workshops at the Hog Island Maine Audubon camp

Thank you so much for granting me the opportunity to attend the Hog Island Field Ornithology camp. Attending camp and learning from renowned birders and environmentalists was incredibly rejuvenating for my spirit; fueled my love for birds, the environment, and environmental education; inspired my desire and need to further sharpen my knowledge of bird species local to my area; and fed my confidence in my abilities as an environmental scientist and educator. The instructors that led this camp were some of the most patient, genuine, caring teachers I have ever interacted with. They took the time to get to know each and every one of us, to check in and make sure we were comprehending the concepts they were teaching, and ensured each individual present felt included no matter what their level of experience was as a birder or educator.

- Ayla McDonough

For years I have heard about the legendary camps at Hog Island. It was to my extreme and humble delight that the Maryland Ornithological Society selected me as one of their recipients for a scholarship to attend the Educator's Week camp in 2022. On July 17th, I arrived at the Island for an unforgettable week of nature, inspiration, and learning from the instructors and my colleagues. As I enter this next school year in the role of science teachers for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, I will draw on my time from Hog Island to engage and inspire my students.

- Emily Leedy

Hog Island Audubon Camp provided me with memories that will last a lifetime. My passions and interests were fueled by being around some of the sharpest minds in ornithology. Spending time with campers who were equally as enthused, helped me to find a network of colleagues that will help me develop my future as an educator and naturalist. The knowledge and skills that I gained while at Hog Island have been obvious to those that I work with at Oregon Ridge, Patuxent River Park, and Phoenix Wildlife Center. . Since returning, I have had so many opportunities to lead environmental education programs, many of which were bird focused. It has been exciting for me to notice the progression of my interests in ornithology and science communication.

- Alex Pellegrini:

Today was our field ornithology session with Sara Morris. We discussed the question, "What is a bird?" along with phylogeny, systematics and taxonomy. We discussed pennaceous and plumulaceous feathers and their

differences and what role they play in flight. There is a large collection of skins in the island's lab and those were used to show similarities and differences in structure. We examined bones and were able to see bumps on the ulna where feathers are attached. The second part of our session was being able to identify female song birds. Using photos of warblers from banding sessions, Sara Morris asked us the same questions about each bird:

1. Background color of breast
2. Contrast of color on breast
3. Face marks
4. Wing bars
5. Contrasting colors

Using our field guides we used the answers to each of these questions to identify the female bird. These questions helped us see the individual differences between birds instead of seeing the bird as a whole. As a beginning birder, this was a very valuable session for me.

- Jennifer Sheggrund

There were 17 students with vastly different amounts of birding experience. Participants came from all over the United States, and we even had a participant from Japan. I learned a good deal from other students, and I felt that I could contribute to their learning as well.,

Holly Mercer (who grew up five miles from where I live) taught about the sounds of birds: how, where, when and why they sing, dialects, and how to learn their songs. I am excited that I will be able to use this information as I teach children, both during field trips and home school classes.

Cory Husic taught a very practical lesson about the different phone apps to use while we are in the field. Then Holly took us for a forest bathing walk. It was so refreshing and relaxing to do this meditative walk. After dinner, Holly presented on Ornotherapy, which further explained why and how the forest bathing walk was such a positive experience.

Wednesday morning's workshop was given by the Leica representative, Whitney Lanfranco. She gave a great explanation of the features on binoculars and how to use them. I have been teaching children for about ten years how to use binoculars and this was extremely helpful information.

In the afternoon, Dr. Charles Duncan taught about bird migration and how it has changed through the years. We also heard about various ways of tracking individual birds.

I am extremely grateful to have had this experience and I look forward to practicing birding on my own and with others and teaching children about the joys of nature.. I learned much, was inspired greatly, and was energized beyond belief. Thank you so much! - Pam Ward

Maryland Birding Highlights 2022

By Tyler Bell

I'm honored to have been asked to do this annual summary of birding highlights for The Yellowthroat. I'd like to thank my predecessor, Hugh David Fleischmann, for his efforts the last two years. I'll do my best to live up to those who have come before me. Given that I wasn't asked to do this until mid-October, it's bound to have a different flavor.

First, the new species added to the state list, both gulls, accepted by the records committee as of November 5! Tim Carney, literally the day before an epic trip to Colombia, found a **Slaty-backed Gull** at his work site, Swan Creek Wetland on January 14. Nice way to start off the year! The bird was quite unreliable but was found afterward at the nearby landfill.



Slaty-backed Gull

Photo by Tim Carney (MDOT MPA/MES)

Not to be outdone, Tom Crusse found an immature **Heermann's Gull** in the inner harbor of Baltimore on April 1. Being April Fool's Day, some thought it was a joke. Until they saw the photos. This bird was quite obliging and even picked a part of town with ample street parking. It lingered until May 5. Without much fanfare by birders (because it wouldn't even be a year bird?), it reappeared in the same area on September 4 and was present to the end of the year.

A first Garrett County record **Long-billed Dowitcher** was found on October 31 by Carl Engstrom. There were seven first county records in 2021, though! Carl also found a first Allegany County record **Eurasian Collared-Dove** on September 2.

On February 2, Joel Springer found a first Washington County record **Trumpeter Swan**. There are still a number of counties missing TRUS, but that finishes off western Maryland.



Heermann's Gull, Baltimore Harbor

Photo by Tom Crusse

Howard County added two new species in 2022: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** when Diane Eidelman found 13 of them on Wilde Lake on April 25, and a long overdue **Western Kingbird** found by Allen Lewis at the Howard County Conservancy on September 20.



Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Wilde Pond,
Howard County

Photo by Diane Eidelman

Matt Hafner started off the Harford County year with a bang on January 2 with a **Lazuli Bunting** at the Sweet Air section of Gunpowder Falls State Park. Just across the Susquehanna in Cecil County, Jonathan Irons found two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** for a first county record on October 4.

The aforementioned **Heermann's** and **Slaty-backed Gulls** were first county records for Baltimore. The SBAG was initially found in Anne Arundel. Nice when you can get a twofer because of a close geographic boundary.

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Western Kingbird, Howard County Conservancy

Photo by Allen Lewis

Prince George's County fared well in 2022. Michael Cavigelli found a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on May 30. Sadly, typically, it was a one-day wonder constituting a 6th state record.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

Photo by Michael Cavigelli

On October 8, Kevin Bennett found an **Anhinga** at the Depot Pond in Upper Marlboro. At least that bird stuck around for three days.



Anhinga, Depot Pond, Upper Marlboro

Photo by Emily Larkin

On Friday, October 28, Marisa Rositol found a first PG County record **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at the National Colonial Farm in Accokeek. This constitutes either the 8th or 9th state record depending on whether you count the Havre de Grace birds, in two separate winters, as one or two birds. It was still present through the end of the year. Plus, it was seen on the count day of the Ft. Belvoir CBC constituting a first for the circle! (See title page for photo)

Mikey Lutmerding struck twice in Calvert County with a first county record **American Oystercatcher** at the Chesapeake Beach Veterans Memorial on February 27 then found a mega rare **California Gull** at the nearby North Beach fishing pier on October 1. Sadly, a Bald Eagle flushed the loafing gulls and the CAGU was seen only by Jim Stasz, who lives practically next door, and the whole Lutmerding clan. Nice bird for the Lutmerding family! On November 24, Jim Stasz found a first Calvert record **Parasitic Jaeger** for his yard list in North Beach!

Clive Harris found a pair of **Trumpeter Swans** in Queen Anne's County on February 13 at the same location as the 2021 **Northern Lapwing**, the Rt. 309 north pond. The NOLA continued through the new year to thrill birders until March 4.

Two scoter species were new county records in Caroline this year. First, a **Black Scoter**, found by Aaron Graham at the Denton WWTP on February 25 then a **Surf Scoter** found by Rich Downs at the Choptank Marina on May 14. White-winged Scoter is still missing from Caroline.

Dorchester scored three new species in 2022. First, a **Northern Lapwing** at Blackwater NWR, found by Gavin Nupp on March 14, followed by a **Mississippi Kite**, also at

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Blackwater, found on May 25 by Robin Skinner. Jim Green found a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at the Hurlock WWTP on June 2.



California Gull, North Beach fishing pier

Photo by Mikey Lutmerding

Ellen Lawler discovered a first Wicomico County record **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** on July 14 in Parsonsburg while atlassing. Unfortunately, safe dates on YCNH ended on June 30. David Palmer found a pair of **Trumpeter Swans** in Somerset County for a first county record on Valentine's Day. Was love in the air? TRUS have nested in Maryland a couple of times now so only they know for sure.

Charles, Kent, Montgomery, St. Mary's, Talbot and Worcester Counties didn't add any new species in 2022. Of course, Worcester has 400 species on their county list so adding new ones is difficult. The pelagic gods frowned on sailing this summer, probably the best time to find an odd southern stray out on the briny.

So, those are the firsts from around the state. Here are some other exciting birds in taxonomic order.

A **Barnacle Goose** was found on December 4 by Kye Jenkins at Chesapeake Farms in Kent County. Sadly, it was a one-day wonder. In Montgomery County, Clive Harris's hidden in plain sight first state record **Mottled Duck** persisted into the New Year at Carderock through March 7. Baltimore's second record of **Tufted Duck**, and the state's 11th record, was found at various locations around North Point State Park from February 21-23. A drake **Barrow's Goldeneye** was found at Pt. Lookout State Park between the causeway and south of the fishing pier staying from

February 6-12. Presumably the same bird found in December 2020 by Phin Rouland. St. Mary's County is the sweet spot for BAGOs accounting for most of the state's records. Steve and Betty Arthur found a/the drake BAGO near the lighthouse at PLSP on December 17, making it a Count Week bird for the Pt. Lookout CBC. It remained through the end of the year.



Tufted Duck with Scaup

Fort Howard Veterans' Park, Baltimore County

Photo by Jim Stasz

Tim Carney found a **White-winged Dove** on private property at Hawkins Point in Baltimore County. Sadly, it was a 45-minute bird as even some of his coworkers, already on site, were unable to come to see it. **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continued at the Ernst Market area of Washington County as in 2021.

The only **Calliope Hummingbird** seen in Maryland in 2022 was a holdover from October 2021 in Garrett County. Thankfully, it tanked up on January 6 and departed ahead of a winter storm. Hardly noteworthy anymore in the mid-Atlantic, there were three **Rufous Hummingbirds** in 2022 (that we know of). One was seen in Howard County for most of November, one at an undisclosed location in Charles County seen during the winter of 2020/2021 and 2021/2022, but not again for the winter of 2022/2023, and another in Potomac, Montgomery County, also from last winter.

Noteworthy anywhere in the Chesapeake Bay were two **Parasitic Jaegers**! The first, found by Joe Hanfman sitting on rip rap by the picnic area at Pt. Lookout State Park in St. Mary's County was a one-day wonder on July 8. Jim Stasz found one at North Beach, described above, on November 24.

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Parasitic Jaeger, Pt. Lookout St. Park

Photo by Joe Hanfman

Usually a flyby megararity, a **Magnificent Frigatebird** was seen around Assateague Island and southern Ocean City, Worcester County, on May 21 and 22(!) **Brown Boobies** were once rare anywhere in the mid-Atlantic. For whatever reason, they have become more than annual in the Chesapeake (seen in Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot in 2022!) as well as along the Atlantic Coast.



Magnificent Frigatebird, Worcester County

Photo by Marcia Balestri



Brown Boobies, Talbot County

Photos by Fred Shaffer

Anhingas are always exciting anywhere in Maryland but the birds that Stan Arnold found along the Patapsco River in northern Anne Arundel County were documented nesting for the first time in the state, smack in the middle of the third Breeding Bird Atlas! **White-faced Ibis** used to be relegated to Worcester County. Dan Small found one at Wye Island NRMA in Queen Anne's County. Interestingly, this was the second county record. The first was found on Kent Island in 2020, just about due west of Dan's bird. Coincidence?

Northern Goshawk is a statewide review species and is rarely reported correctly on eBird, usually Cooper's Hawks. That was until Jonathan Irons was hired to do a migration count at Turkey Point in Cecil County. He tallied four birds this fall, including two well photographed birds!



Northern Goshawk, Cecil County

Photo by Jonathon Irons

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There were two **Ash-throated Flycatchers** in 2022. The first, found by Marisa Rositol at the National Colonial Farm in Prince George's County, was a holdover from when it was initially found in November 2021. The second, found by Keith Eric Costley at Gwynn Falls in Baltimore on November 6 was a one-day wonder. The only **Western Kingbird** and **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was discussed earlier. There were two **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** locations. The first, a single bird found by Phin Rouland on Villa Road in St. Mary's County, only the second county record, was a one-day bird on April 30. A pair, found on July 28 by Stan Binder in Middletown, Frederick County, exhibited nesting behavior. Photos show what appears to be a young bird constituting the first successful breeding in Maryland! The last report was on August 17.

Sean McCandless photographed a probable **Bell's Vireo** at Turkey Point in Cecil County on August 27. It is pending review by the records committee. If accepted, it would be the fourth state record.

And, a couple of 11th hour finds in Worcester. First, on December 27, Colin and Steve Little found a **Western Tanager** at Bayside. It continued to wow observers through the end of the year. On December 28, on the Ocean City CBC, a **Lazuli Bunting** was found by Olivia Butler, Connor Gable and Wayne Klockner in a location inaccessible to the public. It only remained in their sight for about five minutes!

As I write this, 2023 is starting off with gusto. Fodder for next year's Year in Review. Be well and good birding.



Western Tanager, Worcester County

Photo by Colin Little

Spotlight on:

Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run Garrett County

By Marcia Watson and Jeremy Castle

Note: This article is the seventh in a series spotlighting the ten sanctuaries owned by the Maryland Ornithological Society. The MOS sanctuaries are spread across the state from Garrett County to Somerset County, but the majority are little-known and seldom visited. Yet all the sanctuaries have something to offer the birder, naturalist, or conservationist.

A sunlit montane bog surrounded by a dense forest of towering hardwoods and hemlocks – what's not to like? Though situated close to a major highway, this sanctuary's ancient montane bog habitat will instantly transport you to a time many centuries ago.

The Chandler and Eleanor Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run is the newest sanctuary in MOS's portfolio, a generous gift from the Robbins family following the death of Chan in 2017; Eleanor had passed away earlier, in 2008. Chan and Eleanor had discovered the property on one of Chan's research visits to Garrett County, and they purchased it in 1967, not to live there, but to preserve it, in recognition of its unique ecological value. Upon Chan's passing, the four children of Chan and Eleanor (Stuart Robbins, George Robbins, Jane Robbins, and Nancy Robbins McCullough) together decided to give the land to MOS.

At the time that the Robbins family donated the land to MOS, Jane Robbins wrote: "Our parents saw the beauty of this acreage through their keen awareness of habitat impact on both breeding populations and migration success. Resolved to preserve a portion of this heritage, Chandler and Eleanor Robbins researched and purchased this 45.38 acre tract on the northern end of Wolf Swamp in March of 1967, visiting it periodically while birding in Garrett County, or in transit to West Virginia. Both of them would be thrilled to know the land will continue hosting its richly-varied flora and fauna, as well as delighting, with its treasures, birders new and seasoned."

The Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run is in Garrett County, just a short distance north of US Route 40 and I-68, near the community of Piney Grove. The town of Grantsville is 4.5 miles to the west, and the Pennsylvania state line is only 2.4 miles to the north. The sanctuary lies on the eastern slope of Meadow Mountain, in a mountain valley at an altitude of approximately 2,600 feet. This far western section of Maryland is in the Mississippi River drainage area – not part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Robbins Sanctuary and the nearby Caroline W. Wilson Sanctuary (which is also a MOS property) are the only two MOS properties outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed. (See the [November 2021 issue of the Maryland Yellowthroat](#) for "Spotlight on Caroline W.

Spotlight on: Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run

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Wilson MOS Sanctuary.”)

Chan and Eleanor Robbins were interested in protecting this property because of its close ecological association with Wolf Swamp, just a mile to the south. The two properties – Wolf Swamp and the Robbins Sanctuary – are connected by the stream called Red Run, which arises from its headwaters in Wolf Swamp, flowing north through the Robbins Sanctuary and beyond into Pennsylvania, to drain into the Casselman River and eventually into the Mississippi River.

Wolf Swamp is a former Nature Conservancy property that has since been transferred to the State of Maryland and is now treated by the State as an “Ecologically Significant Area” within Savage River State Forest. The Nature Conservancy states that “Wolf Swamp, like many of western Maryland’s peatlands, harbors plants and animals typically found further north in the United States and Canada . . . The swamp was formed, like Maryland’s other mountain peatlands, during the last Ice Age 15,000 years ago; and because of its colder microclimate, relict cold weather plants and animals have been able to persist despite a general warming of Maryland’s climate.” [Excerpt from *Mountains to Marshes: The Nature Conservancy Preserves in Maryland*, published by the Maryland Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, 1991]

The same characteristics are true of the Robbins Sanctuary. A broad expanse of open bog borders Red Run on both sides, giving way to woodlands on the slopes of the stream valley. Eastern Hemlock and White Pines are the dominant tree species and ferns and shrubs cover much of the ground within the forested portion of the sanctuary. There are several small spring-fed tributary streams, filled with sparkling water, that flow through the sanctuary into Red Run. The wetland itself contains a variety of sedges, rushes, ferns, mosses, and herbaceous plants. This habitat supports a number of bird species in need of conservation, including Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager, all of which have been reported at the sanctuary during breeding season.

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Natural Heritage Program within the MD Department of Natural Resources conducted a biological inventory of Garrett County wetlands, including the wetland on the Robbins property. Referred to as Red Run Swamp, the wetland’s ecological value was deemed “highly significant.” Two rare species, the butterfly Two-spotted Skipper (*Euphyes*



View of the Bog

Photo by Dominic Nucifora

bimacula, State Endangered) and the plant White-fruited Mountainrice (*Oryzopsis asperifolia*, State Threatened), were documented in portions of the wetland just to the south and north of what is now the Robbins Sanctuary. However, the Two-spotted Skipper, one of Maryland’s rarest butterflies, has not been found in the area in many years, so it is not known if it’s still present. It is quite possible that, with additional field surveys, it will be found that Red Run Swamp, including the portion now comprising the Robbins Sanctuary, supports other rare, threatened, and endangered species.

The sanctuary is entirely surrounded by private lands. It is reached from Guthrie Lane (also known as Spiker Road), a private road to which MOS has deeded access (good to know in case anyone questions you). There is space for parking two cars on the road shoulder; within the next year, the Sanctuary Committee plans to improve the parking spot with gravel and to put up identifying signs.

There are no maintained trails in the sanctuary, but at least two trails that were apparently created by ATVs and/or deer hunters penetrate into the sanctuary from Guthrie Lane. Trail #1 starts about 100-200 feet north of the parking area on Guthrie Lane; look for the obvious wide, two-track trail on the right, leading east and into the woods. Follow this trail down a gentle slope into the heart of the sanctuary, where the bog is located. The bog itself is too wet to be penetrated on foot, and we ask that visitors refrain from entering so that fragile plants are not damaged. There is no loop trail, so retrace your steps to Guthrie Lane and turn right to walk north on the lane.

Trail #2, located near the north end of the property (see Trail Mao) is another wide two-track. Following this trail, very muddy and rutted in places, will take you to a spot with a good view of the wetland. There is also a power line cut near the north end of the property that can be used to

Spotlight on: Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run

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access the sanctuary's interior, and the power line cut itself has scrubby habitat, good for sparrows.

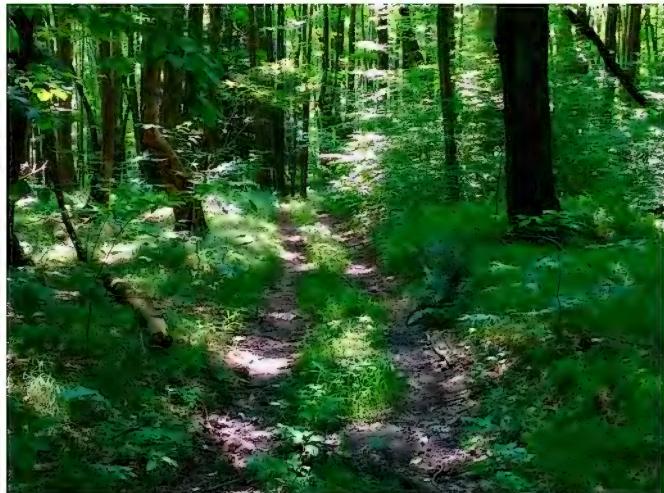


Robbins Run Sanctuary Trail Map and Satellite Image

The sanctuary's east side has frontage on Meyersdale Road with street parking available. At the north end of the property along Meyersdale Road, just south of the house at #401, there is a partially obscured trail that makes for easy walking. The bog in the center of the sanctuary can be viewed by looking north from a vantage point on the bridge that spans Red Run on Route 40/National Pike just west of the intersection with Meyersdale Road.

The Robbins Sanctuary is near the Carey Run MOS Sanctuary and Caroline W. Wilson MOS Sanctuary, and this trio of MOS properties makes for a good weekend birding trip. Although located fairly close together, the three properties have different habitats. Also nearby are Finzel Swamp, Deep Creek Lake, Piney Reservoir, and Savage River State Forest. Take the opportunity to visit while in Garrett County for the MOS Convention at Wisp in May 2023.

About Chan and Eleanor Robbins. Since this sanctuary came to MOS from the Robbins, it is fitting to reflect on the sanctuary's namesakes. Chan and Eleanor were a quiet powerhouse of a couple, who each contributed greatly to



Main Trail from Parking Spot to Bog

Photo by Marcia Watson

the development of MOS. Their influence on MOS was so broad and deep that it is impossible to enumerate all their contributions, but we can offer a few highlights.

Dr. Chandler S. Robbins served as the third President of MOS, from 1952 to 1955. Notably, Chan served as the Editor of *Maryland Birdlife* from 1947 to 2014 – a span of 67 years! During much of that time, he also wrote the quarterly "Seasons" reports on bird populations in Maryland, and authored many other articles that appeared within the pages of *Birdlife*. This was in addition to his professional duties and strictly scientific publications, of which there are about 160.

Chan was an eminent professional ornithologist whose remarkable career as a biologist at Patuxent Research Refuge started in 1943 and ended only with his death in 2017. Chan's research interests were broad, but a central theme was the study of migratory birds and effects of habitat fragmentation on bird populations.

Chan is known to the general public as the person who banded Wisdom, the Laysan Albatross that nests on Midway Atoll, and that is widely considered to be the world's oldest living wild bird. Wisdom was banded by Chan in 1956 and then re-banded years later; she is still returning to Midway annually and is still nesting and producing chicks. She is thought to be at least 71 years old. (<https://www.fws.gov/story/2022-12/wisdom-worlds-oldest-known-wild-bird-returns-midway-atoll>)

Chan is also well-known in the birding world as the lead author of the beloved *Guide to Field Identification – Birds of North America*, known simply as the "Golden Guide," published in 1966 by Golden Press as part of their series of field guides. The Golden Guide paved new ground with its use of range maps and sonograms of bird songs.

Eleanor and Chan were married in 1948, having met on a field trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. Eleanor had

Spotlight on: Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run

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joined MOS in 1946, and soon became a frequent contributor to *Maryland Birdlife* and to other publications, authoring one of the chapters in the booklet *Where Birds Live: Habitats in the Middle Atlantic States*, edited by Shirley A. Briggs and Chan Robbins and published by the Audubon Naturalist Society in 1952. (You can download a copy of this out-of-print booklet on the website of the MOS *Birder's Guide to Maryland & DC* at <https://birdersguidemddc.org/where-birds-live-habitats-in-the-middle-atlantic-states/>.)



Chan and Eleanor on their wedding day

Photo courtesy of the Robbins family

In 1961, Eleanor, along with her friend Rosemary Bridge, founded the Patuxent Bird Club chapter of MOS. The club's Conservation Committee served as a platform for Eleanor's lifelong conservation advocacy activities. Eleanor is also known as the author of a weekly column in the local newspaper, the Laurel Leader, that from 1962 to 2005 relayed bird club and ornithology news to the public. With a deep knowledge of botany, Eleanor was an early voice in advocating for the use of native plants in landscaping, thus foreshadowing today's popular native plants movement.

Since its inception in 1955, Eleanor and Chan were dedicated supporters of the MOS Sanctuary Program, making visits to evaluate possible new sanctuaries, personally participating in workdays at the sanctuaries and putting in physical labor, and making substantial financial contributions to purchase sanctuary lands and to support the maintenance of the properties.

To learn more about Chan and Eleanor, we recommend

starting with the dedication written by Howard County Bird Club member Joanne Solem for the MOS *Birder's Guide to Maryland & DC* at <https://birdersguidemddc.org/about-us/dedication/>. A detailed [collection of information about Chan's professional career](#) is housed on the website of the research program at Patuxent.

The Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run is now an embodiment of Chan and Eleanor's conservation efforts, and we suggest keeping their dedication and commitment in mind when you walk the sanctuary trails and hear the singing Swamp Sparrows and Blackburnian Warblers.

Conservation Value

As described above, the Robbins Sanctuary has unique ecological value in its own right, as a mountain bog that represents an ancient Ice Age relict. In addition, the National Audubon Society has designated Wolf Swamp, less than 2 miles to the south, as an Important Bird Area (IBA), and the southern boundary of the huge Allegheny Front IBA is just 2.4 miles to the north, at the Pennsylvania State line. The latter covers almost 500,000 acres across six Pennsylvania counties, extending all the way up the mountain ridgeline to the State College, PA, area. The Robbins Sanctuary is well-positioned to support birds flying to and from these IBAs.



Ground Cover of New York Ferns

Photo by Marcia Watson

The Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run lies within an area classified by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as a Targeted Ecological Area. Targeted Ecological Areas are lands and watersheds identified by DNR as the most ecologically valuable areas in the State; they are considered the "Best of the Best" and receive priority for conservation by the State.

The sanctuary is also in an area categorized by DNR as a

Spotlight on: Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run

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Green Infrastructure Wildlife Hub, although there are some gaps in the sanctuary's Green Infrastructure near the southern boundary, where the habitat has been disturbed by nearby residents. Green Infrastructure identifies the State's remaining large blocks of forest and wetlands (hubs) and the habitat pathways (corridors) that connect them.

The entire sanctuary lies within an area identified by DNR as important for Forest Interior Dwelling Species. The sanctuary is in a Sensitive Species Project Review Area, meaning that any planned development or disruption of the habitat undergoes extra scrutiny by the state.

The entirety of the Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run is located in an area classified by MD DNR as Tier 4 – Moderately Significant for Biodiversity Conservation under their Bionet – Biological Diversity Conservation Network initiative. The Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run scores

·5 stars out of 5 for providing "Habitat Connectivity."

·3 stars out of 5 for providing "Rare Species and Wildlife Habitat."

·3 stars out of 5 for "Support of Aquatic Life."

·3 stars out of 5 for "Forests Important for Water Quality Protection."

·5 stars out of 5 for "Proximity to Other Protected Lands," presenting conservation opportunities that contribute to landscape scale protection which is key for conserving healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.



Another View of the Bog

Photo by Dominic Nucifora

The DNR parcel evaluation tool shows that the ecosystem services provided by the Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run are valued at \$1,911.28 per acre per year, or \$86,580.98 for the entire 45+ acre tract. Ecosystem services include such parameters as capture of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and ozone; removal of particulate matter from the air; carbon sequestration; groundwater recharge; nitrogen uptake; stormwater mitigation; and provision of wildlife habitat and support of biodiversity.

Why visit?

As of this writing, the eBird hotspot for the Chandler and Eleanor Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run lists 72 species from 21 checklists submitted since the sanctuary was donated to MOS in 2017. Almost all the visits have occurred between the months of April and August. With the small number of submitted checklists and restricted season of coverage, our description of the sanctuary's birdlife is necessarily preliminary. The sanctuary is under-birded, and our understanding of birdlife at the sanctuary would be improved by submission of additional eBird checklists throughout the year, although care must be taken if visiting during deer season or during the winter when Guthrie Lane may be inaccessible. **We are especially encouraging birders to visit and to submit checklists with breeding codes to the MD Breeding Bird Atlas portal on eBird.**



Moss and Lichen-covered Boulder

Photo by Dominic Nucifora

Mourning Doves are found throughout the woodland area. Yellow-billed Cuckoos are present and are likely breeders. Chimney Swifts and Barn Swallows can be seen flying over the bog in the summertime. Killdeer were found for the first time in the spring and summer of 2022. Wild Turkey tracks were found in the snow in January 2022.

Raptors include Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Red-tailed

Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run:

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Hawk. No owls or falcons have been observed to date.

Woodpeckers include Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, Pileated, and Northern Flicker. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are likely present during the winter but have not yet been reported. Red-headed Woodpeckers are a possibility: in 2020, they were confirmed breeding at Little Meadows Lake, less than 2 miles away.

Flycatchers include Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian, Alder, and Eastern Phoebe. Four vireos occur at the sanctuary: Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Warbling, and Red-eyed. Other forest birds include Blue Jays, American Crows, Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Common Ravens were added to the list in fall 2021. The edge of the woods near the bog and the shrubby power line cut at the north end hold House Wrens, Caroline Wrens, Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, and Northern Mockingbirds.

Both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets have been reported in spring. Thrushes reported so far include Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush and American Robin. Cedar Waxwings have also been found during breeding season. Purple Finches and American Goldfinches are both present.

Sparrows present during breeding season include Chipping, Field, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated, Song, and Eastern Towhee. Especially noteworthy is a colony of Swamp Sparrows in the bog. Icterids include Baltimore Orioles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Common Grackles.

There is a nice community of warblers in the woodlands and the fringes of the bog. These include Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Green. No doubt additional warbler species will be reported over the coming years; a good species to be alert for is Canada Warbler, which breeds nearby in Wolf Swamp and the Savage River State Forest.

Scarlet Tanagers use the woodland, along with Northern Cardinals and Indigo Buntings. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have not yet been reported but are likely, as they have been confirmed breeding nearby.

Based on the available habitat and the results of the First and Second Breeding Bird Atlases as well as partial data from the Third Atlas, some other birds to look for during breeding season include Wood Duck, Mallard, Ruffed Grouse, Rock Pigeon (check the neighboring farmlets), Black-billed Cuckoo, Green Heron, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Great Horned and Barred Owls, Belted Kingfisher, American Kestrel (check telephone wires near the highway), Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Tree

Swallow, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, House Finch, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Nashville Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Prairie Warbler, and Canada Warbler.

The Sanctuary has had only a low level of atlasing activity for the Third Breeding Bird Atlas. There are a couple of Observed and Probable breeding records from the sanctuary, but so far, no Confirmed breeding or even Possibles. We encourage anyone who is in the area to visit and submit an eBird checklist, especially during breeding season, when we hope you will submit checklists with breeding codes through the BBA3 Atlas portal. Please feel free to include notes on other wildlife and on plants and habitat in your checklist comments.

Hours: Daylight hours year-round. The sanctuary is located in a rural residential area, and care should be taken to avoid disturbing the neighbors.

Parking: Parking for 1 or 2 cars (depending on the extent of mud) is available at a pull-off on the east side of the lane; GPS coordinates for the parking area are 39.68966, -79.07429. This spot is less than 0.2 miles north of the last house on the right (#150) on the paved portion of Guthrie Lane. Also see the Trail Map. The Sanctuary Committee intends to improve the parking area with placement of gravel and signage during the coming year.

Location: East side of Guthrie Lane north of Old Route 40, Grantsville, MD 21536

For detailed directions and printable sanctuary map, see the entry in the *MOS Birder's Guide to Maryland & DC* at <https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/robbins-mos-sanctuary-at-red-run/> or use Google maps (<https://goo.gl/maps/Jg5jabpqjApLH9pFA>.)

Cost: Free. Donations are always appreciated; donate online at <https://mdbirds.org/conservation/refuges-sanctuaries/#toggle-id-4>.

Tips: Wear sturdy waterproof footwear as the ground may be muddy and deeply rutted. | Be alert for Timber Rattlesnakes, black bears, and bobcats. | Hunting is not permitted on sanctuary grounds, but takes place on neighboring private lands. Be aware of hunting seasons and plan your visit accordingly. Wear blaze orange during deer and turkey hunting seasons (https://dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/Documents/Hunting_Seasons_Calendar.pdf). Be aware that Sunday hunting is allowed in Garrett County. | No restrooms.

Wheelchair Access: The sanctuary is not wheelchair-accessible. However, limited birding is possible from or near the car on Guthrie Lane.

Robbins MOS Sanctuary at Red Run:

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Best Seasons: Spring and fall migration and early summer for breeding birds. May not be accessible in winter because of snow and poor road condition.

Breeding Bird Atlas Block: Avilton CW

Multimedia: See photos in the Google Maps Photo Gallery at <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Robbins+MOS+Sanctuary+at+Red+Run/@39.6879889,-79.0730222,3a.75y,90t/data=!3m8!1e2!3m6!1sAF1QipNVMT2x4MM6UeyTP60GRoJ5Xhi2gGqdCNFijkTs!2e10!3e12!6shttps%3F%2Fh5.googleusercontent.com%2Fp%2F%2F%2F1QipNVMT2x4MM6UeyTP60GRoJ5Xhi2gGqdCNFijkTs%3Dw360-h270-k-no!7i3264!8i2448!4m5!3m4!1s0x89cabdb5f562f257:0x5f4fc5589500e427!8m2!3d39.6897826!4d-79.0736442?hl=en>

About the authors: Jeremy Castle is the Chair of the MOS Sanctuary Committee and is a member of the Patuxent Bird Club; he lives in Washington, DC. Marcia Watson is the President of the Patuxent Bird Club and the secretary of the MOS Sanctuary Committee.

Exciting News for Piscataway MOS Sanctuary

By Jeremy Castle

MOS has a new volunteer to look after the Piscataway Sanctuary in Prince George's County! I am pleased to announce that Samantha Scheff of the Patuxent Chapter has graciously offered to manage Piscataway. Below is Samantha's introduction:



Updated Trail Map, Piscataway MOS Sanctuary

Born and raised in PG County, I am always excited about ways to give back to this wonderful place I have called home for so many years! I am relatively new to birding, but love all the knowledge I soak up on bird walks, and I quickly feel the all-consuming obsession with birding taking over my life (it seems there is no other way). Besides birds though, I am a

lover of all things nature, and you can often find me hiking, backpacking, or just sitting and soaking in the forest. A certified nature-based teacher and volunteer naturalist at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, I especially love helping people of all ages form their own connections with nature. I am eager to hear of your ideas and interest in volunteering; feel free to reach out to me at samantha.scheff@gmail.com at any time!

In additional news about Piscataway, we have discovered that mountain bikers have carved a new trail across the sanctuary. This is not a bad thing – the mountain bike trail, tentatively named the "North Ridge Trail," makes accessing the sanctuary extremely easy for birding and hiking by taking advantage of a low point in the main stream for an easy crossing on foot.

Previously, we had been using a stream crossing that was somewhat perilous because of high and steep stream banks, and had planned to put in a bridge at this spot. The new trail and stream crossing makes construction of a bridge potentially unnecessary.

In addition, the new trail, running on high ground above the stream valley at Piscataway, offers sweeping views of the sanctuary's valley and surrounding wooded ridges. Somehow, the sanctuary seems larger when viewed from the new trail. We have produced an updated trail map that includes the new North Ridge Trail.

The Sanctuary Committee will monitor the situation to ensure that the bikers do not carve numerous trails to the detriment of understory plants and potentially causing erosion.

See "Spotlight on Piscataway Sanctuary" in the [Fall 2022 issue of the Maryland Yellowthroat](#) for more information about the Sanctuary.



Jeremy and Sanctuary Manager Samantha Scheff explore the new trail.

Photo by Marcia Watson

First Day Hike at Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary

31-December 2022

By Paul Bystrak

First Day Hikes, held on New Year's Day, are a tradition in state parks all over the country. According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, this year nearly 5000 people participated in First Day Hikes at 41 state parks. We were approached by Ranger Mark Herring of Janes Island State Park to host a First Day bird-watching hike at Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary. "New Year - New Hobby!" was the tagline. Because of the way the weekend fell, the hike was actually a "Last Day Hike," held on December 31st!



Participants in Irish Grove First Day Hike

December 31st, 2022

Photo courtesy of Paul Bystrak

The Tri-County Chapter of MOS provided leaders – Paul Bystrak and Jennifer Elmer. There were nine participants altogether. We had an introduction just after 9 am at the sanctuary house, and then walked back Dotty Lane to Canal Road to Knott's Landing at the end of the road. It was leisurely, taking about 2 hours for the roundtrip 1 mile walk.

We got off to a very auspicious start – Jennifer spotted Cedar Waxwings in the trees in the yard! They were very much enjoyed by everyone. The walk was held in a thick fog, so we heard birds that we didn't see. But the group did get to see a Belted Kingfisher, appreciated by everyone, which lead to a discussion as to why they are so noisy.

Nearby was an otter trail across the road, marked by otter Piles and leading to an otter Slide into the water. They didn't show themselves, but it was an interesting look into otter culture!

Other species seen were Song, Swamp and White-throated

Sparrows, cardinals, Myrtle Warblers, American Crows, and Great Blue Heron. We got to hear Virginia and Clapper Rails too.

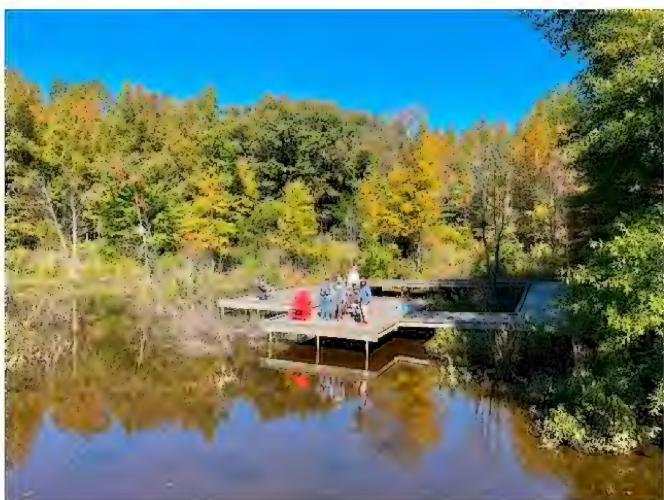
The group departed around 12:30 pm. The outing appeared to be quite successful. Four of the participants said they were going to join MOS – three of us are already members. Jennifer wondered if we shouldn't be doing this more regularly, or at other sanctuaries.



CAROLINE COUNTY

Thanks to Ginna Tiernan and her Adkins Arboretum staff for letting the Caroline County Bird Club hold our BigSit count on their wetlands boardwalk once more. It was our 9th BigSit and our 7th time to hold it at Adkins Arboretum.

It was a beautiful, sunny day! We counted from 7:30 am - 5 pm. 40 degrees to begin the count. 62 degrees at the peak of the day. We counted 30 species in the first hour! We ended up with 54 species. Participants were Debby Bennett, Eli Anders, Tony Giaimo, Bill Scudder, Robin and Christian Lahnemann, Dawn Brownlee-Tomasso, Danny Poet, Valerie Taylor, and Steve Westre.



CCBC BigSit!

Photo by Danny Poet

Some of the highlights were Red-breasted Nuthatches, juncos and Purple Finches. Bird of the day was a female Scarlet Tanager. We saw her twice that day. The second time, she was bathing on the edge of the water not far from the boardwalk.

Added bonuses were homemade cookies baked by Bill Scudder and getting to see many fairies both young and old, along with a few gnomes, who were there for the Arboretum's Annual Fall FairyFest. *Deborah Bennett*

CECIL COUNTY

Chris Starling Remembered

Cecil County recently lost an integral member of its birding community as Sean McCandless recounts.

Many of you probably heard of the passing of a beloved friend of mine, **Chris Starling**. Chris passed away on November 12, 2022 approximately seven hours before we were to meet at Turkey Point for some birding fun. There was a small open friends-and-family service for Chris on Saturday November 19th. My heart still hurts with his loss. The birding community as I see it will never be the same, especially at the local level here in Cecil County.

Whether you knew Chris well or didn't know him at all, Chris was one of the kindest most gentle of humans I have ever met. He never spoke poorly about anyone, though at times he spoke his mind and might tell you exactly what he thought or felt about certain issues or situations but even then, he did it with love in his heart.

He often thought higher about the people in his life than his own... He cared about all people, he loved birds and all wild things. He always spoke so highly of his kids (Liv and Grayson Starling) whom he was so proud of. He spoke highly of his previous wife, his parents and especially his love, Stacey.



Chris Starling

Photo by Sean McCandless

Chris last worked at Benjamin Lumber Company in North East, MD. His main career consisted of being a former firefighter for the Department of Veteran Affairs at Perry Point Maryland, and a fire specialist for the Department of Defense at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Chris earned a Bachelor of Science in Fire Protection and earned a double master's degree in Business Administration and Homeland Security from the University of Maryland.

Chris was a workhorse when it came to contributions in the birding community as well, especially at the grassroots level. The amount of Breeding Bird Atlasing he has done in Cecil County is jaw dropping. Chris was an advocate for birds and birding habitat, and he was always willing to teach others why. Chris opened up the eyes of so many people to take an interest in the natural world around them. He was involved in many social clubs. He was a moderator for the Maryland Birdwatchers Identification Group and for the Cecil Bird Club Facebook Pages. He was a lead field contributor in Cecil County for the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas and a contributor to the Maryland Biodiversity Project.

He found so many birds I always seemed to be looking for. He often loved to try to ruffle my feathers and poke fun at me, which is what good friends do to each other at times. He always did it with love and then later on wanted to make sure he didn't upset me. That was a big part of who Chris was.

I absolutely loved Chris, and no words can express how deeply saddened I am by his loss. May your spirit fly in peace, my friend. *Sean McCandless*.

On the Road

After a cancelled flight at the last minute and then 27 hours of flying, Kim and Ken Drier landed in Madagascar for an exhausting two weeks with Naturalist Journeys. Ken says it was non-stop on a daily basis, either trekking through the rain forest for hours on end chasing down the elusive Running Coua or the beautiful Long-tailed Ground Roller or traveling on a bus all day past rice paddies venturing onto the next spot. Of course what would Madagascar be without lemurs? 12 species of lemurs were tallied during the trip. It was very cool to have the Ring-tailed Lemurs join Kim and Ken for lunch one day as well as to have the Black and White Ruffed Lemurs jumping from tree to tree just above their heads. For the most part the terrain was very dense, and it was hard work getting on each bird. Each venture into the bush involved three guides as well as two to three trackers or individuals to beat the bushes to drive the birds towards the group for viewing. The spiny forest with the giant Baobab trees is a totally unique environment that was just like a fairly tale landscape to walk through. When all was said and done, Kim and Ken came home with list of 125 birds of which 88 are endemic to the island. Both colorful kingfishers, the Madagascar Malachite and the Madagascar Pygmy were

found as well as seven species of Couas and 12 species of Vangas, all endemic to Madagascar. One afternoon was spent snorkeling on the reef in the Indian Ocean. Ken reports it was some of the best snorkeling he has experienced since diving on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Night hikes also took place to search for chameleons, geckos and dwarf lemurs as well. Exhilarating and very tiring is perhaps the best way to describe the trip, not for the faint of heart. *Ken Drier*

HARFORD COUNTY

In 2018, Dennis Kirkwood and I (Jean Wheeler) signed up for what was then the ABA Expedition to Antarctica in 2020. It was billed the “trip of a lifetime”. Although I had been there in 2009, I thought it would be great to revisit South Georgia Island since I had only made one landing due to a “medical emergency on the ship”. Also I did not see Adelie Penguins and had only one Macaroni Penguin high on a cliff on my list. Both Dennis and I were psyched! What could go wrong?— Pandemic!

Of course there was no trip in 2020 and by then we were on the 3rd ship. We almost went in 2021, but Argentina wasn't open for business due to COVID. Finally, this year we set sail on the Quark ship, *Ocean Diamond*.



Dennis Kirkwood and Jean Wheeler

Photo by George Armistead

Prior to embarking I did a short 2 day pre-trip birding with Alvaro's Adventures on Tierra del Fuego searching for Magellanic specialties. Finally the big day came and we went aboard! This was a huge pelagic birding trip. There were many birding guides from Rockjumper, Alvaro Jaramillo and Ricardo Matus, George Armistead, and even

Peter Kaestner (9700+ life birds and counting) were on deck from 5 AM to assist with bird identification. There were many species of albatross, petrel, prion, skua, giant petrel. We sailed eastward to the Falklands and made two landings for passerines like pipit, Long-tailed Meadowlark, and Cobb's Wren. The Black-browed Albatross and Rockhopper Penguin colony was a highlight. Before sailing to the south we visited Stanley.

South Georgia Island is spectacular! The snow-capped, glacier clad mountainous terrain is awe-inspiring. At Elsehul we couldn't go ashore because of rough seas but we had a zodiac ride and viewed the Macaroni Penguin colony on the cliffside. We made four zodiac landings, Three to huge King Penguin colonies of 150,000 to 300,000. The beaches were strewn with Elephant and Fur seals. Grytviken a former whaling and sealing station, is where Ernest Shackleton is buried and we toasted Sir Ernest with Shackleton Whiskey. After one more landing at Gold Harbour for yet another King Penguin colony, we set sail for Antarctica.



King Penguins, Gold Harbor, South Georgia Is.

Photo by Jean Wheeler

During our 2nd day of sailing south we encountered the iceberg A-76-A which is estimated to be 170 km by 25 km and 9 stories high!! It took 5 hours to sail past it. On the 3rd day at sea we crossed over the Antarctic Sound and headed to Snow Hill Island at latitude 64.4 degrees. The ship sailed slowly through a narrow path full of brash ice with dazzling icebergs on either side. Craggy snow and ice-clad mountains peeked above the bergs. We were on the hunt for the Emperor! Almost everyone was on deck checking out the icebergs for resting wildlife. A few Adelie were sighted, but finally the cry went up “there, there, it's the Emperor!” What an exhilarating moment, hoped for but not guaranteed. Passengers were whooping and hollering, hugging and giving high-5's! We saw 6-8 depending on who you talk to, but 2 were close by the ship on an ice sheet! They walked, they tobogganed, they were

visible! A pair of Antarctic Petrel flew over the ship, another hoped for rarity. We were not far from Snow Hill.



Emperor Penguins on an ice sheet

Photo by Whitney Mortimer

We sailed back and the next day landed on Paulet Island with a colony of Adelie Penguin. Then it was back across the sound and landings on Cuverville Island for Gentoo and Half Moon Island for Chinstrap colonies before making our way through the Drake Passage in a "shake" for 2 1/2 days.

What a trip! Dennis had 72 species with 50 lifers. Seeing 8 out of 8 penguins was a highlight for him. Not wanting to sit around he found a local guide "to take me around Tierra del Fuego National Park on the last day before flying home and I found another 11 lifers including the Magellanic Woodpecker."

People ask me why do you want to go there? This land is unlike any other, I think Roald Amundsen said it best- "Glittering white, shining blue, raven black, in the light of the sun the land looks like a fairy tale. Pinnacle after pinnacle, peak after peak, crevassed, wild as any land on our globe, Antarctica lies unseen and untrodden". Jean Wheeler and Dennis Kirkwood.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Clive Harris, our world traveling ex-president, noted the following milestone: "On a (mostly) birding trip to California in October I got my 700th US bird in the form of a Nazca Booby on a pelagic in San Diego waters and a week later my 3000th life bird - Scripp's Murrelet - on a pelagic out of Half Moon Bay."

Bruce Beehler sent the following note: "Spent the day of Sunday 13 November at Waggoner's Gap hawk watch with its hardy band of sharp-eyed raptor watchers. The wind blew from the WNW 10-15 mph--good eagle weather. The group tallied 28 Bald Eagles, 15 Golden Eagles, 2 Northern Goshawks, an additional 64 raptors of five species, as well as 79 Common Loons and 44 Tundra Swans." It's nice to be

reminded that there's great hawk watching nearby.



Juvenile Golden Eagle, Waggoner's Gap, PA.

Photo by Bruce Beehler

On a September trip to California, Anne Mytych saw her 500th life bird, a Golden-crowned Sparrow. "I saw the sparrow at Natural Bridges State Beach in Santa Cruz and was lucky enough to hear several of them singing on a foggy morning. After the fog cleared up, I was even able to get some photos. While in California, I birded in Big Sur, Monterey, the Bay Area and also went on my first pelagic, a nauseating but fruitful trip." All told, Anne saw 137 species in the week she was there, including 40 lifers. Some of her favorite "new" birds included the California Condor, Black Turnstone, Black Oystercatcher, Surfbird and Ridgway's Rail.



Golden-crowned Sparrow

Photo by Anne Mytych

Mike Bowen writes, "Who could turn down an invitation to spend a week on Hawaii's northernmost island Kauai ("The Garden Isle") at any time of the year?" Mike and Anne Cianni were happy to spend a week in September at a Texas friend's time-share condominium in Lihue, Kauai's

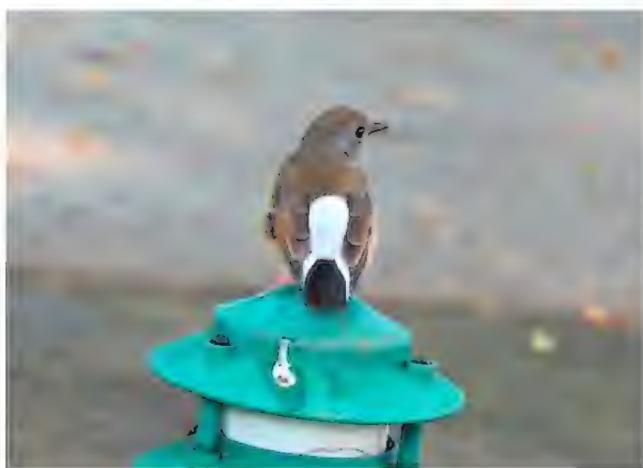
biggest (but really not very big!) urban area. Right on the Marriott Kauai's grounds they said they saw lots of (introduced to Hawaii) birds such as Common Mynas and Red-crested Cardinals (native to Brazil) and some delightful Pacific Golden-Plovers, recently arrived from their Alaskan breeding grounds. "Feisty little Zebra Doves were everywhere, even on the floor of the restaurants fronting



Pacific Golden Plover

Photo by Mike Bowen

the beach. Perhaps the most interesting and attractive of the locally common birds were several families of White-rumped Shama; both males and females showed rather well. This species was introduced to Hawaii from Malaysia in the nineteen thirties.



White-rumped Shama, Kauai

Photo by Mike Bowen

"One morning they visited Kilauea Point – arguably Kauai's bestbirding area." Red-footed Boobies were everywhere, and Great Frigatebirds were easy to see, along with White-tailed Tropicbirds. Of course, a real thrill was to

find a few Hawaiian Geese ("Nenes") ambling around the parking lot of this National Wildlife Refuge. Mike wrote that the big disappointment of the trip was the paucity of Hawaiian endemic birds. "Non-native mosquitoes have now reached over 4000 feet elevation on the island – as a consequence the only Hawaiian endemic birds we were able to see were a few Apapane – a species that has somehow managed to evade the mosquitoes -- and a couple of Kauai Elepaio. 'I'wi – a species that I had seen on a previous visit to Kauai in 1979 but not on this trip – is now extremely rare on Kauai." *Chris Wright*

PATUXENT

This fall, Prince George's County notched up not one, but **two new birds** for the county bird checklist: **Anhinga** and **Black-throated Gray Warbler**. Both have been well-documented with numerous photos. (see Tyler Bell's 2022 birding recap beginning on page 7 for photos).

The **Anhinga** was found by Kevin Bennett (a Patuxent Bird Club board member) at Depot Pond East in Upper Marlboro on October 8, 2022. In his eBird notes, Kevin said (in part): "Missed this bird on my first scan of the pond. It was partially obscured by aquatic vegetation, sitting just above the water with wings extended. Long neck in an "S" position, straight, pointed bill, whitish wing coverts over black flight feathers and black body, brownish head and neck . . . Since this site is so infrequently birded outside of duck season, it's hard to know how long the bird has been here."

Thanks to Kevin's quick posting of the sighting in eBird, many other birders got to see the **Anhinga** in the next couple of days. The last sighting was by Fred Shaffer on October 11, who saw the bird fly up out of the pond, gain altitude, and then disappear while gliding to the east.

This is the first documented report of **Anhinga** for Prince George's County. Fred Shaffer saw a bird that was probably an Anhinga flying over Schoolhouse Pond in Upper Marlboro on April 3, 2002, but was not able to obtain a photo. Given the height of the flying bird and poor view, Fred decided not to submit a full report on that bird to the MD-DC Records Committee. At the time of Fred's 2002 sighting, Anhinga was considered a rarity in Maryland and was on the reporting list for the Records Committee, but the Records Committee received an increasing number of reports over the years, and in April 2008, decided to stop reviewing reports of Anhinga, essentially moving it to a list of birds expected in Maryland, although infrequent.

In the US, **Anhinga** was previously considered an iconic bird restricted to wetlands along the Gulf Coast and southern Atlantic coast. Earlier field guides (e.g., Peterson 1980; Robbins Golden Guide, 1983; National Geographic, 1985) show the range extending up the Atlantic Coast as far as North Carolina. The species has undergone a range expansion in the past couple of

decades, and individual birds are known to wander. Anhingas are considered to be short-distance partial migrants, moving between breeding areas in the US to spend the winter in Florida, Louisiana, or Mexico. Much of the Florida population appears to be resident (that is, doesn't migrate). The species is also found in South America.

(Fun fact: One might assume that Depot Pond takes its name from the adjacent Home Depot store. Not so – old maps show the name "Depot Pond" predating the Home Depot store. The name apparently comes from the railroad depot associated with the freight line that runs on an elevated embankment between Depot Ponds West and East.)

For the second new Prince George's County bird, Marisa Rositol found a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at National Colonial Farm in Piscataway Park on October 28, 2022. Marisa found the bird while looking at a mixed flock of chickadees, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and kinglets. Marisa's eBird notes say: "I saw a black and white flash. The BTYW was foraging with the flock . . . Chickadee looking bird with a black and white head, yellow spot in front of eye and thick double streaks on the flanks and 2 bold white wing bars."

By the next day, the **Black-throated Gray Warbler** had been seen by many birders. As of this writing (December 5), it is still present and birders are reporting it almost daily, mostly in a line of Red Cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) that lies west of the Visitor Center. Other late warblers have been showing up in the same line of cedars, including Magnolia Warbler and Nashville Warbler.

Black-throated Gray Warbler is a true rarity for Maryland, with only eight accepted records in the MD-DC Records Committee database. The previous birds were found in Anne Arundel, Harford, Montgomery, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties, mostly in the late fall or early winter, although there is one record from Harford County of a bird that stayed from late March through mid-April.

The normal breeding range of **Black-throated Gray Warbler** extends along the Pacific Coast from southwestern British Columbia California, and inland east to Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Most of the population spends the winter in Baja California and interior parts of Mexico, but a few winter in the US along the Pacific and Gulf Coasts.

Marcia Watson

TALBOT COUNTY

An Autumn Day of Offshore Birding

On October 15 Susan Henyon and I ventured offshore with Brian Patterson on the Stormy Petrel II. There was a good breeze blowing as we departed Hatteras Landing Marina and eased out into the Sound. Shearwaters, gadfly petrels

and other tubenoses fly best in windy conditions, so we were anticipating a good day.

Within minutes of passing the sea buoy, an early arriving Northern Gannet was spotted. The day was off to a good start. As we traversed the shelf water on our way to the Gulf Stream, we encountered many expected species, such as Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Finding a few shearwaters on the shelf is not unusual, and we soon found Cory's, Scopoli's, Greater and Audubon's shearwaters. Less expected were the three Black-capped Petrels we saw on the shelf. Other interesting birds found were Mourning Dove; Wilson's Snipe and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Twenty-five or so Coastal Bottle-nosed Dolphins and a Leather-backed Sea turtle offered additional entertainment on our way to the deep.



Greater Shearwater

Photo by Jeff Effinger

We crossed the shelf break in mid-morning with an array of birds following our chum slick. The slick consisting of bunker (Menhaden) oil and a block of frozen, ground Menhaden. Here we encountered a few dozen Wilson's Storm-petrels. This species is quite abundant in these waters at certain times of the year but is less common by mid-autumn. While we did not find any unusual species on this leg of the trip the shearwater species that we encountered on the shelf continued to visit the chum but, in even larger numbers. Over sixty Black-capped Petrels were found from the shelf break out to 200 fathoms. This number is impressive since the total population of this species is likely less than 3,000. An American Kestrel and a Yellow-rumped Warbler visited us here in the deep as well.



Cory's Shearwater

Photo by Jeff Effinger

The trip back across the shelf had more in store for us. We encountered a current edge with some associated Sargassum. Several Red-necked Phalaropes were feeding along this edge, and everyone got a good look at these diminutive denizens of the deep. As we cruised toward shore more Coastal Bottle-nosed Dolphins were cavorting about, and four Loggerhead Sea Turtles were lolling on the surface. Spinner Sharks put on an impressive aerial display as they leaped from the surface while feeding on fish.



Wilson's Storm-petrel

Photo by Jeff Effinger

We traveled 31 miles, on a generally southeast heading, from the sea buoy to the point at which we began the inbound leg of the journey. The water temperature

outside the inlet was 75 degrees F and nearly 80 degrees at the 200 fathom line at the turn toward shore. The Gulf Stream this day was moving at a little over 1.5 knots, northeasterly current, directly opposed to a brisk northeasterly breeze, created a bit of a chop, and slowed progress over the bottom but, it was still a pleasant ride. This boat, a New England style boat, was made to take these conditions. This was an excellent day on the ocean but, all days on the ocean are excellent. *Jeff Effinger*

HOWARD COUNTY

Howard County Bird Club Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

On the evening of November 1, 1972, Nanine Rhinelander gathered 15 people in an office in Columbia, Maryland to form a Howard County chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Although there were a dozen chapters of the MOS at that time, Howard County birders had to travel to other counties to attend meetings and field trips.

Special 50th anniversary events were held throughout 2022; however, the culminating activities were the last weekend of October. All were at Mount Pleasant, the Howard County Conservancy property.

Field events on Saturday, October 29, were organized by Field Trip Chair Joe Hanfman. They consisted of dual bird walks led by Bonnie Ott and Kurt Schwarz, a habitat walk led by Sue Muller, and a morning hawkwatch at the Chandler Robbins' Skywatch led by Wes and Sue Earp and Ralph Cullison. A welcome by President Kristin Trouton and introductory remarks by Joe Hanfman were followed by a distribution of souvenirs to all attendees and by drawings for several prizes. Sunny skies with a light breeze were a bonus.

On Sunday, October 30, the afternoon combined displays and a program in the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center with light refreshments and the anniversary cake served on the adjoining covered deck.

The program began with brief remarks by President Kristin Trouton and several guests, including MOS President Bonnie Borsa and Howard County Conservancy Executive Director Meg Boyd. This was followed by a short video of an interview by David Sandler of Nanine Rhinelander and fifty-year member David Holmes recalling their early memories of the club. Another fifty-year member, Joanne Solem, narrated a PowerPoint of the club's first fifty years. Various groups of individuals who had made significant contributions to the club were recognized. Kristin presented a Valued Service Award to David Holmes, and Founders Awards to Nanine Rhinelander, Joanne Solem and Bob Solem. Drawings for special door prizes followed. The program concluded with Kristin and Nanine cutting the cake.

Portions of the weekend's celebration, including

photographs prepared as a slide show by Kelsey Wellons, are planned for the anniversary page of the club's website: www.howardbirds.website. All expenses were underwritten by designated contributions, donated prizes, and profits from the sale of anniversary shirts. The 50th Anniversary Committee planning the year's events consisted of Mary Lou Clark, David Holmes, Mary Maxey, David Sandler, Kristin Trouton, Kelsey Wellons, and Joanne Solem, Chair. *Jo Solem*

Tri-County Bird Club

Mary Huebner and Ellen Lawler finally made it to Canopy Tower and Canopy Lodge in Panama! They were originally registered for the MOS trip that was postponed two times due to COVID and then were unable to go with the group in April 2022. (Marcia Watson wrote about that trip in the August 2022 *MD Yellowthroat*.) But the Canopy Family was SO accommodating that they allowed us to reschedule our trip for another time.

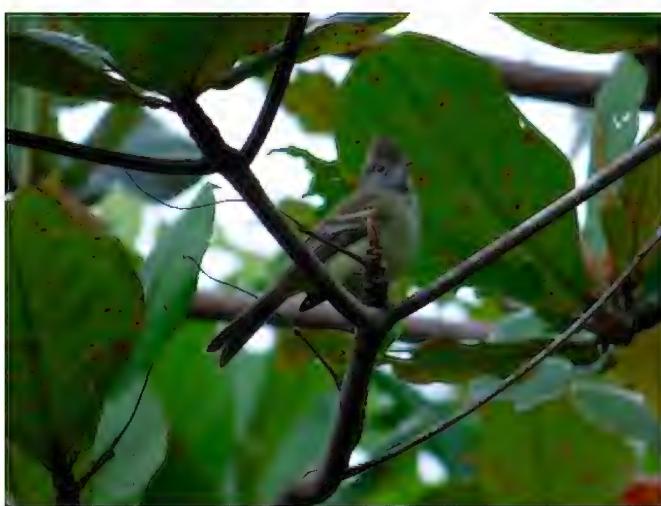
We arrived at Canopy Tower on Oct. 25, 2022 and enjoyed a couple days of excellent birding before Ellen came down with COVID! She tested positive after arriving at Canopy Lodge and so took it easy and skipped a number of the day trips for the remainder of the stay. Again, the Canopy Family was so very nice and accommodating; after Ellen tested positive, they moved Mary to another room (and Mary remained COVID negative throughout). Fortunately, the dining area at the Lodge is open air, so the staff just set a separate table for us a bit away from the other guests. We were still able to see beautiful birds (about 175 total) and get some good photos.

Probably the most unusual bird (the one our guide, Tino, was most excited about) was a Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo. Other special birds were American Pygmy Kingfisher, Northern Emerald-Toucanet, Squirrel Cuckoo, Black Hawk-Eagle, Great Potoo, eleven hummingbirds, four trogons and three motmots. An interesting addition to the time at Canopy Tower was the presence of British wildlife photographer and artist, Robert E. Fuller. He was touring and filming at a number of locations in Panama with his two assistants and a Canopy guide. At the Tower he set up lights to film nocturnal mammals, so we had nice looks at Kinkajou, Allen's Olingo and Night Monkey. We can't say enough about the guides and staff at both the Tower and Lodge; they are excellent, friendly, very well organized and most accommodating. They definitely work hard to make your stay a memorable one (even if you don't come down with COVID!). *Ellen Lawler*.



Dusky-faced Tanager, Canopy Lodge

Photo by Ellen Lawler



Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Chagres River Resort

Photo by Ellen Lawler



Blue-headed Parrot, Canopy Lodge

Photo by Ellen Lawler

Marcia Balestri and Suzette Stitely embarked on a month-long trip to Papua New Guinea with Rockjumper Tours in July 2022. The trip covered extensions to Huon Peninsula (7 days) and the island of New Britain (5 days) with the main trip covering various habitats in Papua New Guinea over 18 days. Of all the world's birding destinations, Papua New Guinea must certainly rank amongst the most fascinating and exotic. It is one of the few places in the world to see Birds-of-Paradise as well as being home to many other endemic birds and families.

Traveling by air, road, and boat, Marcia and Suzette explored the diverse habitats of the country, from winding lowland rivers and sprawling grasslands, to the richly-forested highlands. Logistics were challenging, especially getting there (three days) and returning home (four days due to mechanical failures and missed flights). Once in country, travel went fairly smoothly with only a few glitches. Birding in Papua New Guinea was challenging as the birds are skittish and hard to find after being hunted for thousands of years for their feathers and food. It was also physically challenging at times. The final trip report hasn't come out, but over 300 birds were seen by the group with 20 Birds-of-Paradise! Marcia came away with 307 species total, 222 lifers including over 120 endemic or near-endemic species. *Marcia Balestri*



Brehm's Tiger-Parrot

Photo by Marcia Balestri

Some Dazzling Bird-of-Paradise and Bowerbird photos by Marcia Balestri



Brown Sicklebill



Ribbon-tailed Astrapia



Right: Flame Bowerbird

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023!

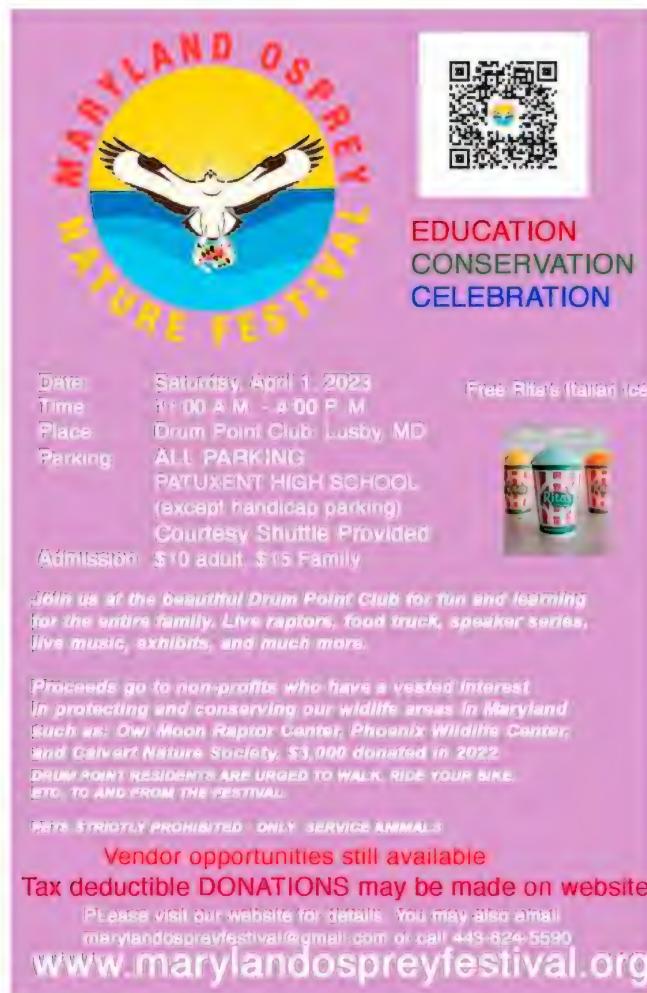
Please see below for details. We are grateful for your continued support. It is with the highest degree of enthusiasm that we invite you to become part of the 2023 Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival ("MONF"). Those involved as an attendee, volunteer, vendor, or sponsor, will agree that last year's inaugural Festival was a tremendous success.

Here is a fun video that captured last year's event:

<https://videopress.com/embed/TMSEXeb2>

EDUCATION.CONSERVATION.CELEBRATION. were in full display and will continue to be the pillars of our Festival, and the reason for our foundation.

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Brown Boobies, Talbot County

Photos by Fred Shaffer

MOS Calendar

Through 05/31/2023

Field Trips

Please follow all restrictions requested by the host organization. Additional details are posted on MOS and chapter web sites.

2/1	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. A telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Contact leader 24 hours in advance for updates.
2/1	All day	Bird Ride/Walk Bombay Hook & other	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-913-8300 Description: meet at Bay 50, 7:00 AM
2/2	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome.
2/4	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Hooper's Island	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Jeff Effinger (410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com) Description: Waterfowl, gulls, passerines. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 am.
2/4	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas.
2/4	8 – 10 AM	Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Co-leaders: Roy Howard at royh Howard@me.com and Anne Mytych at amytych@yahoo.com. Description: Join us for a morning of winter marsh and woodland birding. Targets are sparrows and possibly ducks. Limit: 12.
2/5	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-913-8300
2/5	8 – 11 AM	Loch Raven	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Loch Raven is a great place for winter waterfowl. Trip limited to 12. RSVP required to leader.
2/5	8 AM – 4 PM	Ocean City Area Birding	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Ocean City Area to Assateague Birding
2/10	8 – 11 AM	Lake Elkhorn	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader: Allen Lewis (allenlewis@gmail.com) Description: Easy walking along the lake and to Forbay Pond. Waterfowl, sparrows and winter finches are possible. Reservations required.
2/11	7:30 AM – 4 PM	Dorchester County Birding Trip	Host: Tri-county Bird Club For more information contact trip leader, Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net Description: Waterfowl, raptors, other winter residents. Meet at the Royal Farms on Rt. 50 west of Salisbury.
2/11	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Spriggs Farm & Broadneck Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Leo Dilling, leodilling@hotmail.com or 703-282-0011
2/11	8 – 11 AM	Habitat Walk: Herring Run Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Ashley Bowers (Baltimore City Rec and Parks), and Kim Tomko (BBC), 443-414-8034 or ktomkat@gmail.com. Description: Expect a variety of wintering birds. RSVP to Kim Tomko.
2/11	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Waterfowl on the Shenandoah	Host: Washington County Bird Club Text Mark Abdy, 301-573-1301 or email mjabdy@yahoo.com. Description: Bird walk with Mark Abdy and Heather McSharry. Weather dependent, we will drive from one spot to the next.
2/11	All day	Feeder Watch	Host: Harford Bird Club. Contact Mark Johnson (marksjohnson2@gmail.com; 410-692-5978). Description: Annual feeder watch in the comfort of the home of Mark and Denise Johnson.
2/12	7 AM – 12 PM	Frederick Douglass on the Tuckahoe Park	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Ron Ketter (707-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com) Description: Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 7 am or meet at Frederick Douglass Park at 7:30 am.'
2/12	8:30 – 10:30 AM	Riley's Lock	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader: Scott Young at 202-313-1444. Dave Roberts will co-lead. Description: Join us for a morning at and around Riley's Lock and upstream. Limit: 8.
2/12	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
2/15	9 AM – 1 PM	Gull Boot Camp at Fort Armistead Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Fred Shaffer, glaucousgull@verizon.net, 443-926-6457
2/16	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome.
2/17 – 19	All day	Ocean City Weekend	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact Tom Humphrey, 240-793-2508. Description: Waterfowl and wintering seabirds.
2/18	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds.
2/18	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Audubon. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Register in advance at www.patterson.audubon.org.
2/18	8 AM – 5:30 PM	Dorchester County Birding	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Cambridge and South Dorchester Bird Hunt ending with Short-eared Owl Search
2/18	8:45 AM – 12 PM	Pickering Creek Audubon Center	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leaders: Pete and Linda Yungbluth (410-924-8135 or lyungbluth@gmail.com) Description: Great Backyard Bird Count.

2/18	9:30 AM – 12 PM	A Search for Owls	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leaders Gregg Petersen, sig29@aol.com; David Cummings, wcummings9@gmail.com. Description: Learn how to find owls by habitat and signs. Reserve a spot with Gregg Petersen by 7 PM Feb. 15.
2/18	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Ben Poscover, 410-905-8991. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. A telescope can be useful for distance viewing.
2/19	8 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Jim Collatz, jcollatz@aol.com or 410-295-3344
2/19	All day	Maryland Coast	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Wayne Bell (410-253-1663 or wbell2@washcoll.edu) Description: Gannets, alcids, gulls. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 am or meet at Ocean City Inlet parking lot at 8 am.
2/19	TBD	Youth Birding	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com or 443-416-9867. Description: Meet at Oregon Ridge Park at the Kidd's Nature Pavilion near the Nature Center. This month's topic is "Owls." Check with the leader for latest information.
2/23	8 – 11 AM	Lois Y. Green Conservation Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader: Mark England at englandmark@comcast.net or 240-308-4114. Description: Overwintering songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Meet at 8711 Snouffer School Road, Gaithersburg. Limit: 12.
2/24	8 AM – 12 PM	Walk at North Beach & Herrington Harbor	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300 leader: Kevin Graff keywestlifestyle2001@mail.com or 410-967-5896 (text)
2/25	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Audubon. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at our website, www.patterson.audubon.org.
2/25	8 AM – 12 PM	Swan Harbor Farm Park	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Dr. Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: Prime habitat for waterfowl, song birds, and marsh and field birds. Meet at the Agricultural Education Center.
2/26	7 AM – 12 PM	Oxford and environs	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leaders: Susie Pratt (410-924-4925 or prattsuzie@gmail.com) and Janet MacDonald (973-903-4208 or janetmacdonald68@gmail.com). Description: Waterfowl, gulls,passerines. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM or meet at Oxford Town Park at 7:30 AM. Breakfast to follow, hosted by Janet Mackey and Ron Ketter.
2/26	8 – 10 AM	Youth Walk at Gunners Lake	Host: Montgomery Bird Club RSVP: Brooke Levey (blevey1@gmail.com) Description: The walk will focus on the identification of ducks. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet on the path near Wisteria Drive. Reservations required. Limit: 10 youth.
2/26	8 AM – 12 PM	Basic Bird Walk at Tuckahoe State Park	Host: Caroline Bird Club Leaders: Bill Scudder and Debby Bennett. Description: Good for beginners learning to identify birds and breeding bird behavior and how to use Merlin and eBird apps. Meet at the boat ramp parking lot.
2/26	9 AM – 5 PM	Blackwater NWR	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com or 667-231-6453. Description: All-day trip for ducks, geese, swans, raptors, and landbirds. Meet at 7 AM at Nursery Road Park and Ride or at 9 AM at Blackwater Visitor Center. Limit 12. Reserve with the leader.
2/27	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Signs of Spring at Rockburn Branch Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club E-mail the leader, Bonnie Ott, sparrowdamsel@gmail.com to register. Description: Walking through the woodlands to look for signs of spring. Limit 12. Meet at end of the parking lot off Landing Rd entrance.
3/1	9 – 11:30 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. A telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Contact leader 24 hours in advance for updates.
3/2	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome.
3/2	8 – 11 AM	Gunners Lake	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader: Mike Bowen at 202-236-0510 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com. Anne Cianni will co-lead. Description: Nuce variety of wintering waterfowl and rather close views of the birds. Start at 8 AM along the north side of Wisteria Drive. Limit: 10.
3/3	TBD	Audrey Carroll Sanctuary	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: David Smith (443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net) Description: Woodcock. Time TBD
3/4	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Conquest Beach	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Dave Burgevin (301-788-0916 or dburgevin@gmail.com) Description: Waterfowl, field birds. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 am or meet at 346 Conquest Rd, Centreville MD at 7:15 am.
3/4	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas.
3/4	8 – 11 AM	Middle Creek WMA, PA	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Toby Pessoa Gingerich, tags2011@gmail.com Description: Day trip to this major gathering place for Snow Geese and other winter waterfowl, north of Lancaster, PA. Meet at Willow Point lot at 8 AM. Carpooling encouraged; contact leader to RSVP and arrange.
3/5	5:30 – 8 PM	Woodcocks at Pickering Creek	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Ron Ketter (707-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com). Description: Woodcocks displaying at twilight. Meet at Pickering Creek Audubon Center parking area.
3/5	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300
3/5	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club Leader: Richard Peters, Richard@rrrpeters.org Description: Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. West end parking lot.
3/5	8:30 – 11 AM	Perryville Community Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: This hotspot is good for Tundra Swans and other waterfowl in late winter. RSVP to leader.
3/8	6 – 8 PM	Timberdoodle Hunt	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders are Tim Houghton (timhoughton@comcast.net).Description: Hopefully you will see the fascinating Woodcock sky dance mating display as well as hear their distinctive call notes.
3/11	7:30 AM – 3 PM	Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader: Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com; 443-417-7219) Description: Watch waterfowl at this accessible waterside park. Meet at 7:30AM at the Park-N-Ride at Rt. I-95 and Rt. 155.

3/11	8 – 11 AM	Wheaton Regional Park for New Birders	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Co-leaders: Evelyn Ralston at evelynralston@icloud.com and Martha Morris at mamorris1123@verizon.net . Description: Ducks, woodpeckers, flycatchers, raptors (sometimes a Merlin!), bluebirds, towhees are all possible. Limit: 12 in two groups of 6 each.
3/12	7 AM – 12 PM	Mill Creek	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Jeff Effinger (410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com). Description: Maintenance and birding. Depart from Easton Acme Parking Lot at 7:00 am or meet at Mill Creek at 7:20 am.
3/12	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Mariner Point Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Matt Addicks, maddicks13@gmail.com or 443-987-7208
3/12	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club Leader: Russell Kovach, Russell.kovach@gmail.com Description: Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. West end parking lot.
3/12	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
3/16	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome.
3/16	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Terrapin Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Adele Clagett, adele@birding.pictures or 410-212-2652
3/18	7 AM – 12 PM	Eastern Talbot County Landings	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Bobbie Wells (410-924-2568 or wellsbk@yahoo.com). Description: Waterfowl, gulls. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 7 am
3/18	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds.
3/18	7:30 AM – 3 PM	Birding at Heron Park	Host: Tri-county Bird Club For more information, contact trip leader Mary Huebner at marybrd22@gmail.com Description: Trip to Heron Park, in Berlin, and other Worcester County locations to look for late ducks and early migrants. Meet at Ward Museum at 7:30 a.m. or Heron Park at 8:15.
3/18	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. Participants must register in advance at our website, https://patterson.audubon.org .
3/18	8:15 AM – 12 PM	North Point State Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com . Description: Varied habitats, including marsh, woods, and Chesapeake Bay. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, sparrows, and other species. RSVP to leaders.
3/18	9 – 11:30 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Contact leader 24 hours in advance for updates.
3/18	All day	Bombay Hook NWR	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leaders: Lynn Kieffer (301-943-5290 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com) and Lois Kauffman (301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com). Description: Waterfowl and shorebirds. Contact leaders for meeting time and location.
3/18 – 19	5 AM – 5 PM	YMOS Birdathon	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com , 410-463-1669) Description: YMOS fund-raiser for World Series of Birding as MOS members pledge per species found. Sat - Ocean City to Cambridge; Sun - Cambridge to Bay Bridge
3/19	8 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Jim Collatz, jcollatz@aol.com or 301-254-0188
3/19	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club Leader: Dave Ziolkowski, dziolkowski@yahoo.com Description: Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. West end parking lot.
3/19	TBD	YOUTH BIRDING, Coppermine Fieldhouse	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com . Description: We will look for Spring migrating birds in the forest that's connected to Lake Roland. RSVP to leader and verify time of trip.
3/25	8 – 10 AM	Lapidum Boat Launch - Susquehanna State Park	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader: Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com) Description: join us for a morning scan of the river in search of lingering winter visitors, early spring arrivals and resident species.
3/25	8 – 11 AM	Norris Farm Landfill	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Dave Votta, dgvotta85@gmail.com or 908-268-2021. Description: Varied habitats including meadow, marsh, Back River shoreline. Limit 10. RSVP to leader required.
3/25	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at our website, https://patterson.audubon.org .
3/25	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at North County Regional Park	Host: Caroline Bird Club Leaders: Debby Bennett and Robin Lahemann. Description: Meet at parking lot at end of drive.
3/25	9 AM – 12 PM	Allegany County Waterfowl walk	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com for questions or to register. Description: Meet at the Rocky Gap State Park main beach area. We will travel to several spots and end at the C&O Canal Terminus.
3/26	7 AM – 12 PM	Wade's Point	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leaders: Trish Cope (301-325-7441 or trishcope73@gmail.com) and Ron Griffin (901-634-7785 or ckayakin@yahoo.com). Description: Waterfowl, shorebirds. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 7 am or meet at Wade's point at 7:30 am.
3/26	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard Bird Club Leader: David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com Description: Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. West end parking lot.
3/29	8 AM – 12 PM	Beginning Birding by Ear at Rockburn	Host: Howard Bird Club Leader: Bonnie Ott. sparrowdamsel@gmail.com Description: March is an excellent time to learn our resident species songs before the migrants arrive. Meet at end of the parking lot off Landing Rd. entrance. Limit 10, register with leader.
3/30	8 AM – 12 PM	Walk at Wootens Landing and Sands Rd	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300 Leader TBA
3/31 – 4/2	All day	Work Weekend at Irish Grove Sanctuary	Host: MOS Sanctuary Committee and Talbot County Bird Club. Work in small teams to complete maintenance and improvement tasks on the grounds and in the sanctuary house. Contact Jeremy Castle (jeremy.castle@mdbirds.org) to register to attend; deadline to sign-up March 24th..
4/1	7 AM – 12 PM	Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader: Jim Nelson at kingfishers2@verizon.net . Description: We will explore the wetlands and fields of Hughes Hollow. Limit: 16.

4/1	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas.
4/1	8 AM – 12 PM	Sharps at Waterford Farm	Host: Howard Bird Club Leader: Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com or 410-531-3197 Description: Fields with crop residue, extensive woodlands, creek and ponds make for good birding opportunities. Knee-high waterproof footwear required for part of walk. Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right.
4/1	TBD	Fred Archibald Sanctuary	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: Lynn Kieffer (301-943-5290 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com) Description: early migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for starting time.
4/2	7 AM – 12 PM	Adkins Arboretum	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Wayne Bell (410-253-1663 or wbell2@washcoll.edu) Description: Early migrants. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 7 am.
4/2	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300
4/5	9 – 11:30 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Contact leader 24 hours in advance for updates.
4/6	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome.
4/6	TBD	Bird Walk	Host: Washington County Bird Club Leader: Anna Hutzel, 240-291-1325 Description: location to be determined.
4/8	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Mt. Pleasant Farm	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300 Leader TBA
4/8	8 AM – 12 PM	Oregon Ridge Park and Ag. Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com or 667-231-6453. Description: Oregon Ridge's woods, meadows and streams are very good for migrant and resident songbirds.
4/8	8 AM – 12 PM	Alpha Ridge Landfill	Host: Howard Bird Club Contact Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com Description: Vesper sparrow and other field birds possible. Meadowlarks, kestrels and other open country birds expected. Rarities possible. Reservations and carpooling required.
4/8	TBD	C&O Canal at Lander	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: Kathy Brown (301-865-1360 or kathybrown07@verizon.net) Description: Early migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
4/9	7 AM – 12 PM	Talbot Mills	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Susan Henyon (240-682-3882 or suehenyon@rocketmail.com). Description: Early migrants. Depart from Easton Acme Parking Lot at 7:00 am.
4/9	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families.
4/11	8 – 11 AM	Belmont Manor Historic Park	Host: Howard Bird Club Leader: Gregg Petersen, sig29@aol.com Description: A walk around the fields looking for early migrants.
4/11	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: First in a series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).
4/12	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Patterson Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300 Leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-967-5896 (text only)
4/15	7 AM – 6 PM	Eastern Shore Migrant Search	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com , 410-463-1669) Description: Search for early migrants on the Eastern Shore. Nassawango Creek, Elliott Island Rd, Blackwater Refuge
4/15	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds.
4/15	9 – 11:30 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Contact leader 24 hours in advance for updates.
4/15	9 AM – 12 PM	Garrett County Ponds	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club. Contact westernmbirdclub@gmail.com for questions or to register. Description: Meet at the Finzel Swamp parking area at 9:00 am. We'll visit the Finzel Swamp, Piney Reservoir, Little Meadows Lake and New Germany State Park.
4/15	All day	Eastern Neck NWR	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Dave Burgevin (301-788-0916 or dburgevin@gmail.com) Description: Early migrants. Depart from Easton Acme Parking Lot at 6:30 am or meet at Eastern Neck NWR Tundra Swan Boardwalk Parking Area at 7:45 am.
4/15	TBD	Antietam National Battlefield	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: Jeff Smith (240-291-1892 or jefsmith78@gmail.com). Description: Early migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
4/16	7:30 AM – 2 PM	Annual Nassawango Birding Trip	Host: Tri-county Bird Club Leader Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net Description: Birding at a couple locations in the Nassawango Preserve searching for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and other migrating passerines and newly arrived summer residents. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 am.
4/16	8 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Jim Collatz, jcollatz@aol.com or 301-254-0188
4/16	8 – 11:30 AM	Irvine Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Brian Rollfinke, brollfinke@gmail.com . Description: A great spot for sparrows, raptors, and other birds of this transitional season. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Canceled if rain or winds. A fee of \$5 per person is required. RSVP to leader required.
4/16	TBD	YOUTH BIRDING, Cylburn Arboretum	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com . Description: Cylburn has a beautiful display of daffodils every year and they attract many birds. We will also talk about bird eggs and go on an egg hunt during our walk for prizes. Contact leader for time and location.
4/18	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com . Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats.
4/19	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Ft. Smallwood/Hawk Watch	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300
4/20	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome.

4/20	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Fort Frederick	Host: Washington County Bird Club Leader: Bruce and Linda Field, 301-991-9174 Description: Bird walk at Fort Frederick
4/22	7 – 11 AM	Walk at Swan Creek	Host Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Stan Arnold, thrushhost@gmail.com or 410-428-7567
4/22	7:30 – 10 AM	Warblers & Wildflowers	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders are Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu), Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com ; 443-417-7219), and Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com). Description: Spring wildflowers and migrant and resident bird species. Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill.
4/22	8 -11 AM	Mt. Pleasant Farm – Howard County Conservancy	Host: Howard Bird Club Leader: TBA Description: Earth Day walk in conjunction with the Howard County Conservancy. Meet at parking lot near the barn.
4/22	8 – 11 AM	Wyman Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Libby Erickson, Elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com . Description: This Baltimore City park is very birdy during spring and fall migration. Meet at the Remington Ave. Bridge above Wyman Park Drive. RSVP to leader required.
4/22	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must register in advance at our website, https://patterson.audubon.org .
4/22	9 AM – 12 PM	Project Clean Stream/Earth Day Cleanup at Pelot Sanctuary	Host: Caroline Bird Club Description: Wear proper clothing and work gloves and bring some trash bags if you can. Sanctuary information and directions: http://www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/trails.html
4/22	TBD	Libertytown Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: Lynn Kieffer (301-943-5290 or lynkkieffer@yahoo.com) Description: Early migrants and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
4/23	7 AM – 12 PM	Beauvoir on La Trappe Creek	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Warren Maruyama (202-253-3844 or warren.maruyama@hoganlovells.com). Description: Waterfowl and migrants. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 7:00 am.
4/23	8 – 10:30 AM	Chinquapin Run Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Sam Tillman, sam.tillman@gmail.com or 443-844-5917. Description: This walk will explore a new hotspot, Chinquapin Run Park. RSVP to leader required, limited to 15 participants.
4/25	7 – 10 AM	Walk at Milford Mill Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300 Leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-967-5896 (text only)
4/25	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders: Deb and Lou Taylor, debrataylor11@gmail.com or 410-852-9807. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).
4/29	7 – 10 AM	Warbler Migration	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader: Mark Johnson (410-692-5978; marksjohnson2@gmail.com) Description: Targets are Yellow-throated Warblers, Baltimore Oriole, and Louisiana Waterthrushes. Meet at the parking area at Rock Run Mill
4/29	7 AM – 12 PM	Pickering Creek Audubon Center	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leaders: Lisa Sargeant (978-697-0135 or sargeant76@gmail.com) and Susie Pratt (410-924-4925 or prattsuzie@gmail.com). Description: Migrants. Depart from Easton Acme Parking Lot at 7:00 am or meet at Pickering Creek Audubon Center parking area at 7:20 am. Breakfast to follow, hosted by Bobbie Wells.
4/29	8 – 11 AM	Milford Mill	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Nico Sarbanes, nasarbanes@yahoo.com . Description: A memorial walk in honor of Leslie Starr. Milford Mill is one of the best passerine migrant traps in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Limit 15 people. RSVP to leader required.
4/29	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at our website, https://patterson.audubon.org .
4/29	8 AM – 12 PM	Walk at Patuxent North Tract	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300
4/29	8 AM – 12 PM	Basic Bird Walk at Camp Mardela	Host: Caroline Bird Club Leaders: Robin Lahnemann and Debby Bennett. Description: Meet at the pavilion on the left-hand side before you get to the main campus area.
4/29	TBD	Baker Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: Kathy Brown (301-865-1360 or kathybrown07@verizon.net) Description: Spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
4/30	6 AM – 4 PM	Western Shore Migrant Search	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com , 410-463-1669) Description: Migrant search of Western Shore areas: Susquehanna SP, Swan Harbor, North Point State Park.
4/30	8 – 10:30 AM	Soldiers Delight	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Sarah Luttrell, luttrell.sa@gmail.com . Description: Expect to see a wide variety of migrating songbirds. Meet at the Overlook on Deer Park Rd. RSVP to leader.
4/30	8 – 11 AM	Cylburn Arboretum	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. Limit 10. Pre-registration required- RSVP to the leader.
4/30	8 AM – 12 PM	Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory	Host: Caroline Bird Club Contact Debby Bennett at dabennett1996@gmail.com to register and for directions. Description: Bird Band observation. Great for kids. Adults welcome too.
5/2	7 AM – 2 PM	Walk at Susquehanna State Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300 Leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-967-5896 (text only)
5/2	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Ron Davis, ronaldavis1963@gmail.com . Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).
5/3	9 – 11:30 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Contact leader 24 hours in advance for updates.
5/4	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome.

5/4	8 – 10:30 AM	Orioles at Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mark Linardi, mlinardi@outlook.com or 443-834-8413. Description: Cromwell in early May is an excellent place to see/hear Baltimore and Orchard Orioles. Meet at the Willow Grove parking lot.
5/6	7 – 10 AM	Warbler Walk at Rock Run	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader: Tim Houghton (410-510-7504; timhoughton@comcast.net). Description: Take a stroll through the park in search of spring migrants and other songbirds, as well as waterfowl and waders out on the river.
5/6	7 AM – 12 PM	Western Washington County	Host: Washington County Bird Club Text Mark Abdy, 301-573-1301 or email mjabdy@yahoo.com. Description: Bird walk with Mark Abdy and Heather McSharry.
5/6	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas.
5/6	7:30 AM – 4 PM	Delaware Coast for Migrating Shorebirds	Host: Tri-county Bird Club Leader Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net Description: Birding at a number of sites along the Delaware Coast to observe migrating shorebirds. Starting at Prime Hook NWR we'll then work our way north to Misplillion Harbor and the DuPont Nature Center. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 a.m.
5/6	8 – 11 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Toby Pessoa Gingerich, tags2011@gmail.com Description: Druid Hill Park offers a good mix of warblers and other passerines, as well as resident (including nesting) raptors. Meet at the Swann Dr. Entrance. RSVP required.
5/7	7 – 10 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Bud Poole, budpoole343@gmail.com. Description: Meet at the southern end of the boat lake. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. Please RSVP to the leader.
5/7	7 AM – 12 PM	Duvall Farm	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leader: Ron Ketter (707-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com). Description: Migrants, forest and field birds. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 7:00 am
5/7	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300
5/7	8 – 11 AM	Western Regional Park	Host: Howard Bird Club Leader: TBA Description: Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Meet at Carr's Mill Road parking lot,
5/7	TBD	Gambrill SP, Watershed, and Sand Flats	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman (301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com) Description: Warblers and spring arrivals. Contact leader for meeting time and location
5/9	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mark Linardi, mlinardi@outlook.com or 443-834-8413. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).
5/12	8 AM – 12 PM	Mill Run Camp Ground	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club, Contact westernnmbirdclub@gmail.com for questions or to register. Bill Blauvelt is the point person. Description: Meet at the parking area at the Campground near the end of Mill Run Road.
5/13	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Harford Glen	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader: Lynn Feryus (443-910-5570 or lfery@verizon.net) Description: Riparian habitat, woodland trails and the open meadows offer great opportunities for good birding.
5/13	All day	World Series of Birding	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669) Description: Student Competition
5/14	8:15 – 11 AM	Cylburn Arboretum	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mark Linardi, mlinardi@outlook.com or 443-834-8413. Description: Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. Limit 10. Pre-registration required- RSVP to the leader.
5/14	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families.
5/14	TBD	YOUTH BIRDING, Dupont Nature Center, Delaware	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com. Description: Join us to see the thousands of horseshoe crabs that spawn here. Contact the leader to confirm time for this event.
5/14 – 17	All day	Magee Marsh Wildlife Area	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leaders: Bonnie Borsa (301-606-9383 or bonborsa@comcast.net) and Kathy Brown (301-865-1369 or kathybrown07@verizon.net) Description: Multiday trip for spring migrants.
5/15	All day	Susquehanna State Park	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Leaders: Dave Burgevin (301-788-0916 or dburgevin@gmail.com) and Bettye Maki (248-225-0724 or bjmak04@gmail.com) Description: Migrants, Cerulean Warblers. Depart from Easton Acme parking lot at 7:00 am or meet at Susquehanna State Park, Rock Run Mill parking area.
5/16	8 – 11 AM	Walk at North Point State Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300 Leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-967-5896 (text only)
5/16	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551 or mechetelat@icloud.com. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).
5/18	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome.
5/19 – 21	All day	MOS Conference	Our theme for the convention is "The Next 75" and will be a launching point for a short retrospective of our history, and a look forward to the future direction of MOS. https://www.mosconvention.org/
5/20	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds.
5/20	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Eden Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact leader Matthew Addicks (maddicks@harfordcountymd.gov) for questions. Description: Walk the trails along Deer Creek. Expect to see warblers, breeders, and some of the raptors that breed in the surrounding area.
5/20	8 – 11 AM	Piney Orchard Nature Preserve.	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leaders: Deb and Lou Taylor, debrataylor11@gmail.com or 410-852-9807 Description: Woods, meadows, and ponds can bring in Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, and Prothonotary Warbler.

5/20	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. Participants must register in advance at our website, https://patterson.audubon.org .
5/20	9 – 11:30 AM	Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. A telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Contact leader 24 hours in advance for updates.
5/20	TBD	Breeding Bird Atlasing	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Description: We'll select blocks in Talbot County that are lagging in the number of species coded and arrange a special trip. Great opportunity for those new to atlasing to get some good field experience
5/21	8 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Jim Collatz , jcollatz@aol.com or 301-254-0188
5/21	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding by Canoe at Days Cove	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Sam Tillman, sam.tillman@gmail.com, 443-844-5917. Description: Explore Days Cove from a canoe! Opportunities to see Marsh Wrens, Least Bitterns, Rails, and other wetland specialties. Participants must be at least 12 years old. Limit 20. RSVP to leader required.
5/23	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Matthew Black, matthewblack66@icloud.com. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).
5/24	7 AM – 5 PM	All day trip to Delaware	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300 Leader TBA. Meet at Bay 50.
5/26	8 – 11 AM	Walk at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com or 410-991-8300 Leader TBA
5/27	8 – 11 AM	Herring Run Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Kim Tomko, ktomkat@gmail.com or 443-414-8034. Description: This urban park in Northeast Baltimore is an oasis for many migrating and resident bird species. RSVP required.
5/27	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at our website, https://patterson.audubon.org .
5/27	TBD	Hughes Hollow/McKee-Beshers WMA	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: Lynn Kieffer (301-943-5290 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com) Description: Breeding birds. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
5/28	TBD	Breeding Bird Atlasing	Host: Talbot County Bird Club Description: We'll select blocks in Talbot County that are lagging in the number of species coded and arrange a special trip. This is a great opportunity for those new to atlasing to get some good field experience
5/29	7 – 11 AM	Hidden Valley and surrounding areas	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader: Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: The trip will proceed along Hidden Valley, then proceed to the Bradenbaugh Flats, with stops along the way at any other sites with potential. Meet in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Road where it crosses Deer Creek. Parking space is limited.
5/30	8 – 11:30 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Laura Lechtzin, lechtzin@verizon.net. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park).

Meetings

Meetings may be virtual or in-person (or both)! Additional details, including links, will be posted on chapter web sites and the MOS calendar, as available.

2/1	7 – 9 PM	Carroll County Bird Club	Gerald Winegrad will present "The Birds and other Wildlife of Buenos Aires, Tierra del Fuego, the Falklands, South Georgia Island, and Antarctica"	Carroll Nonprofit Center
2/2	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Members' Night	Homewood at Crumland Farms
2/7	7 – 9 PM	YMOS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
2/9	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	Allen R Lewis will speak on Colombia, South America	Robinson Nature Center
2/14	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Fred Shaffer "Gulls of North America." Check club website for Zoom link.	Virtual
2/15	7 – 9 PM	Anne Arundel Bird Club	Joan Maloof will speak on Old Growth Forest Network	Blue Heron Center, Quiet Waters Park
2/15	7:30 – 9:30 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Scott Young will speak on "Colorful birds of Brazil, Columbia and Costa Rica". Zoom or in-person. Check club web site.	MD
2/16	7 – 9 PM	Talbot County Bird Club	Dr. Jonathan Slaght: "Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl."	Virtual
2/18	9 – 11 AM	Caroline Bird Club	Program TBA	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
2/27	7 – 9 PM	Tri-County Bird Club	"Papua New Guinea - Birding in Paradise" presented by club member, Marcia Balestri.	MAC Education Center
2/28	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Kathy Barylski, Naturalist, will talk to us about Birds and Butterflies of Honduras.	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
3/2	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Paul Baicich will speak on "Birding and beyond in Cuba". In-person and Zoom.	Homewood at Crumland Farms
3/4	10 AM – 12 PM	MOS Board Meeting	Hosted by Baltimore Bird Club	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
3/7	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Cin-Ty Lee and Andy Birch: "An Introduction to Empidonax Flycatchers and their Identification."	Virtual
3/7	7 – 9 PM	YMOS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
3/9	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	Andy Brown will speak on Barn Owls of Maryland	Robinson Nature Center

3/14	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Jim Brighton "MD Biodiversity Project." Check club website for Zoom link.	Virtual
3/14	7 – 9 PM	Talbot County Bird Club	Tim Carney and Kristina Motley on Poplar Island. Business meeting will follow.	Easton YMCA Multipurpose Room
3/18	9 – 11 AM	Caroline Bird Club	Wayne Bell will present "30% Fewer Birds in North America: Lost from Maryland's Eastern Shore?"	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
3/23	7:30 – 9:30 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Francesca Grifo will speak on Native Plant Gardening for Birds. Zoom or in-person. Check club web site.	MD
3/27	7 – 9 PM	Tri-County Bird Club	"What future for salt marsh birds? A salt marsh restoration plan for Maryland" presented by Dr. David Curson.	MAC Education Center
3/28	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	The Saylor's Antarctic Adventure-Cheryl and Michael Saylor	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
4/4	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Gabriel Foley: "Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3."	Zoom
4/4	7 – 9 PM	YMOS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
4/6	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Randy Robinson of the National Conservation Training Center will speak on Bald Eagles. In-person and Zoom.	Homewood at Crumland Farms
4/11	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Karan Odum "Evolution of Bird Song in Male and Female Birds" Check club website for Zoom link.	Virtual
4/11	7 – 9 PM	Talbot County Bird Club	Sharing of birding photos and stories by club members. More details will be provided. Business meeting will follow.	Easton YMCA Multipurpose Room
4/13	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	Kurt Schwarz will speak on South African Birds	Robinson Nature Center
4/15	9 – 11 AM	Caroline Bird Club	Donna Cole: Bald Eagle poisonings on Maryland's Eastern Shore	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
4/19	7:30 – 9:30 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Christine Sheppard from the American Bird Conservancy will speak on Glass Collisions. Zoom or in-person. Check club web site.	MD
4/24	7 – 9 PM	Tri-County Bird Club	"Thinking like a Watershed" presented by Tom Horton.	MAC Education Center
4/25	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Maryland Biodiversity Project by Jim Brighton	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
5/2	7 – 9 PM	YMOS	MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project.	Virtual
5/4	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Dennis Grizzle will emcee Trivia Night. In-person and Zoom.	Homewood at Crumland Farms
5/9	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Guest speaker TBA. Check club website for Zoom link.	Virtual
5/10	7:30 – 9:30 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	May Social	Woodend Sanctuary
5/11	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	Kojo Baidoo will speak	Robinson Nature Center
5/19 – 21	All day	MOS Annual Conference	Our theme for the convention is "The Next 75" and will be a launching point for a short retrospective of our history, and a look forward to the future direction of MOS. https://www.mosconvention.org/	Wisp Resort
5/20	9 – 11 AM	Caroline Bird Club	Program TBA	Wharves of Choptank Visitor Center
5/22	6 – 9 PM	Tri-County Bird Club	"Gulls of North America: Enjoying nature's most accessible birds in Maryland and across North America" presented by Fred Shaffer.	MAC Education Center
5/23	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Members' Night. Share bird photos with the club.	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
5/25	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Tiffany Kersten: "Birdie Big Year: Elevating Women Birders."	Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum

Seasonal Counts

Howard County Mid-winter Count	Contact Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com	2/04
Dorchester County May Count 1	Contact Harry Armistead (215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com)	5/06
Fred Archibald Sanctuary Count	Contact David Smith (443-995-4108 or lacsmith@comcast.net)	5/06
Allegany County Spring Bird Count	Contact Mark Eanes at mdeanes@atlanticbb.net	5/13
Anne Arundel County May Count	Contact Steve Sheffield, srsheffield@comcast.net	5/13
Baltimore County May Count	Contact Libby Erickson, elizabeth.erickson@gmail.com.	5/13
Calvert County May Count	Contact Sherman Suter, shermansuter@gmail.com	5/13
Caroline County May Count	Check Caroline Bird Club web site or Facebook page for more information	5/13
Carroll County May Count	Contact Scott Hodgdon, scott.hodgdon@msn.com	5/13
Dorchester County May Count 2	Contact Harry Armistead (215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com)	5/13
Frederick County May Count	Contact David Smith (443-995-4108 or lacsmith@comcast.net)	5/13
Garrett County May Count	Contact Duane Bailey at dbailey3@earthlink.net.	5/13
Howard County May Count	Contact Gregg Petersen, sig29@aol.com	5/13
Prince Georges County May Count	Contact Matt Felperin (mfelperin@nvrpa.org)	5/13
St. Mary's County May Count	Contact J. Tyler Bell, jtylerbell@yahoo.com	5/13
Washington County May Count	Text Mark Abdy at 301-573-1301 or email mjabdy@yahoo.com	5/13
Worcester County May Count	Contact Marcia Balestri, mebalestri@gmail.com	5/13
Somerset County May Count	Contact Pat Valdata, pvaldata@charter.net	5/14
Wicomico County May Count	Contact Ellen Lawler, emlawler534@comcast.net.	5/13
Audrey Carroll Sanctuary Count	Contact David Smith (443-995-4108 or lacsmith@comcast.net)	5/14
Charles County May Count	Contact Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com	5/14
Talbot County May Count	Contact Ron Ketter (707-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com)	5/14